

Featuring **THE BLACK HOOD**

TOP-NOTCH

NO. 14 APRIL

comics 10¢

ALSO
THE WIZARD
WITH ROY
THE SUPER-BOY!





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THE BIG

5



ON SALE ABOUT THE 15TH OF EVERY MONTH

ON SALE ABOUT THE 10TH OF EVERY MONTH

THE LEADING COMIC MAGAZINES ON THE NEWSSTANDS



THE WORLDS GREATEST COLLECTION OF THRILLS, ADVENTURES — AND — MYSTERY —

EVERY FEATURE IN EVERY BOOK ALWAYS BRAND NEW!

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THE BLACK HOOD

MAN OF MYSTERY



A QUEER FEELING OF DANGER FOR BARBARA SUTTON- THE GIRL HE LOVES- IS FELT BY THE BLACK HOOD. AND SO THE BLACK KNIGHT OF JUSTICE SPEEDS THROUGH THE NIGHT TO HER HOME.

AT THAT MOMENT, BARBARA MAKES HER WAY UP THE ATTIC OF HER HOME.



THIS IS THE DOOR, HEMSLEY! OPEN IT!!!

YES, MISS BARBARA



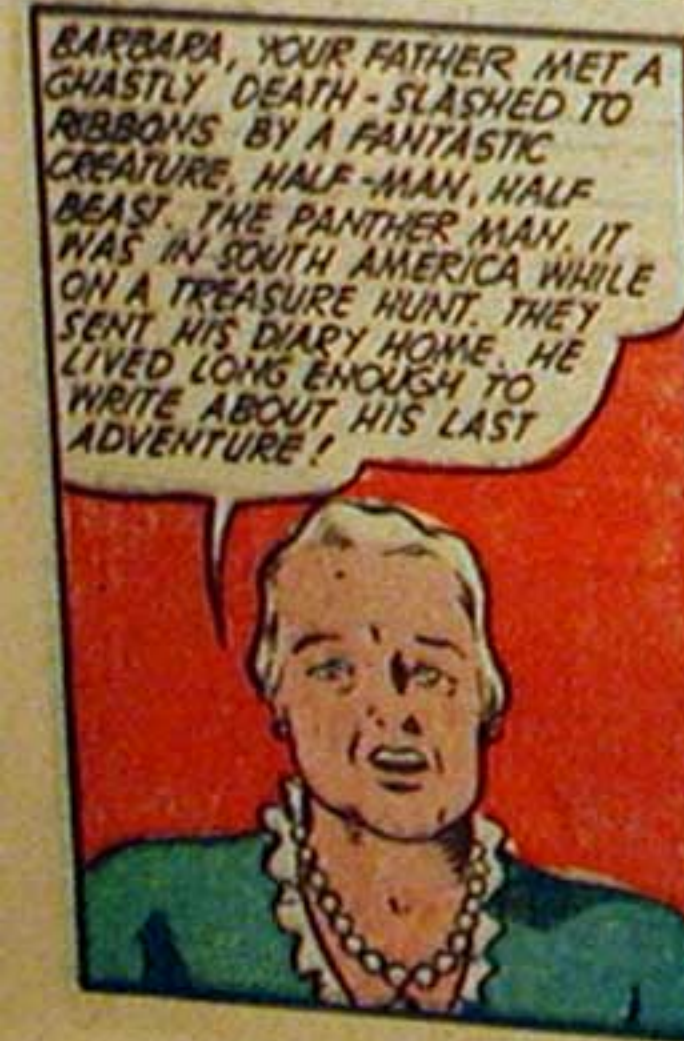
HERE WE ARE!

UGH! SUCH A MUSTY ROOM! NOBODY'S BEEN IN HERE FOR YEARS!



WHILE OUTSIDE-

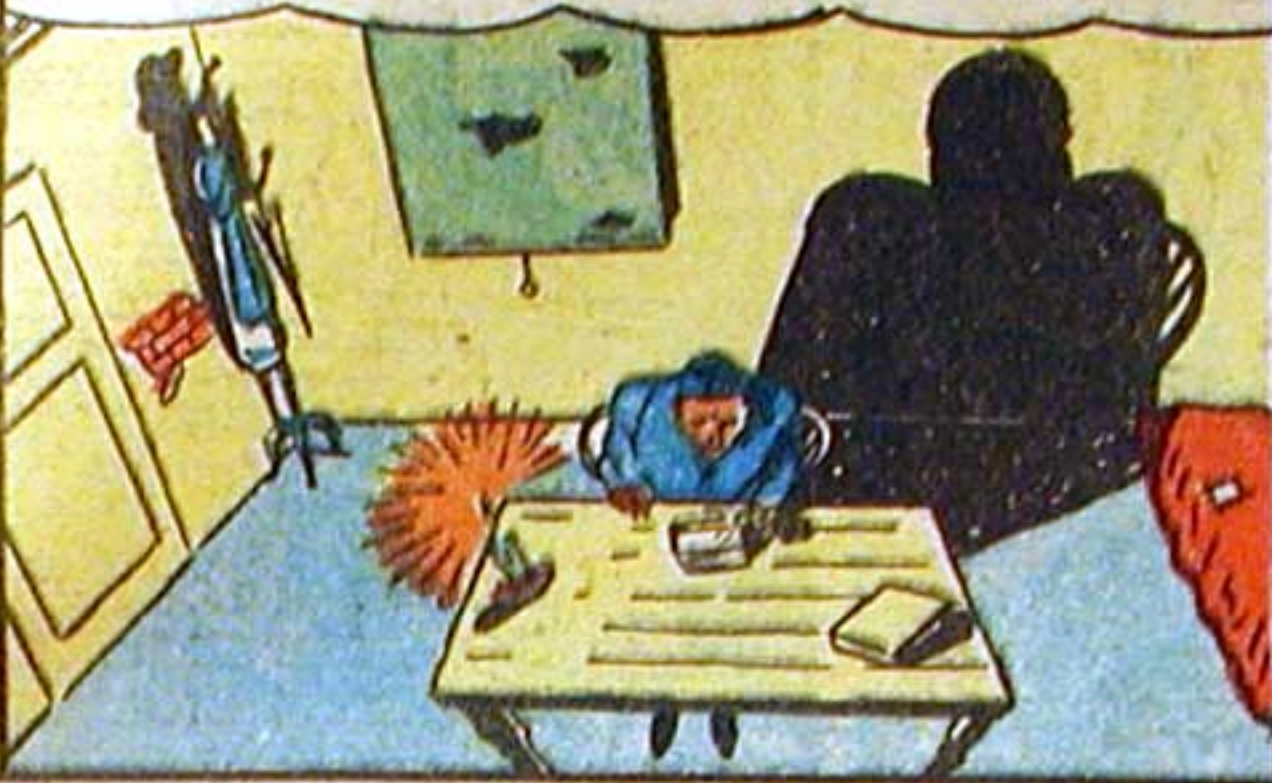
A CANDLE LIGHT FLICKERING IN THE ATTIC! THAT'S THE FORBIDDEN ROOM IN THE SUTTON HOUSE.



OCT. 16 - THIS IS THE DAY I BEGIN MY SEARCH FOR THE FABULOUS RUBY OF RAMM. MYSELF AND 3 OTHERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE CLUES TO DECIPHER AND FIND OUT WHERE IT IS HIDDEN! A GRIM GAME, CONCEIVED BY MY UNCLE'S DISEASED MIND - AND DEATH MAY BE MY PAY!!!

BUT I CANNOT RESIST THE TEMPTATION

"MY UNCLE'S PLAN IS TO MAKE A TREASURE HUNT FOR THE FAMOUS RUBY, AND TO PLACE OBSTACLES IN THE PATHS OF THOSE HE HAS CHOSEN TO SEEK IT."



HEH HEH! MANY HAVE DIED TRYING TO POSSESS THE RUBY OF RAMM, AND MANY MORE SHALL. HEH HEH! A CLEVER PLAN OF MINE! SUCH A CLEVER PLAN!!!



I KNOW WHAT AT LEAST ONE OF THOSE OBSTACLES SHALL BE. THE JEWEL IS HIDDEN SOMEWHERE ON THE ISLAND OF COCOS. I FOR ONE, KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THIS MEANS - FOR IN ITS JUNGLES PROWLS THE DREAD MONSTER KNOWN TO THE TERRIFIED NATIVES AS - **THE PANTHER MAN!!!**

"IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE SECOND DAY OF MY SEARCH WHEN THE PANTHER MAN SIGHTED US."



"I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG HE STALKED US THROUGH THE TREES!"



"BUT WHEN IT STRUCK IT WAS WITH THE SWIFTESS AND DESTRUCTIVENESS OF LIGHTNING!"



"THEN IT TURNED ON ME AND ITS HORRIBLE CLAWS RIPPED AT MY BODY."



"I STAGGERED OFF INTO THE JUNGLE - AND THEN EVERYTHING TURNED BLACK!"



THE SURVIVING NATIVES DRAGGED ME TO A HOSPITAL! I KNOW I'M NEAR DEATH. DON'T KNOW HOW... OTHER SEEKERS FARED! HAVE NO MORE STRENGTH! GOODBYE DEAR WIFE, DAUGHTER....

YOU DROPPED SOMETHING, BABS!

HEY! THAT'S FUNNY! THIS PAPER'S GOT A POEM ON IT! IT READS "ON THE ISLE OF COCOS, IN CONSTANT VIEW - THERE SITS ONE POINTING TO THE SECOND CLUE!"

WHY, THAT MUST MEAN THE CLUE TO THE RUBY! I'M GOING AFTER IT!

I DON'T WANT THE RUBY - BUT I'M A NEWS PAPER WOMAN! AND THIS LOOKS LIKE A GREAT STORY!

OH, BARBARA! I WAS AFRAID OF THIS! PLEASE DON'T!

DON'T WORRY, MRS SUTTON, I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER!

ER... COUNT ME OUT! ...IT'S TOO RICH FOR MY BLOOD!

WHY, KIP, YOU... YOU COWARD!

SHOWIN' YOUR TRUE COLORS AT LAST, HUH, BURLAND!

NEXT DAY

I'D BETTER HURRY AND GET INTO A DISGUISE OR I'LL REALLY HAVE TO STAY BEHIND

'BYE MOTHER!

YOU DON'T HAVE A THING TO WORRY ABOUT, MRS SUTTON, I'LL PROTECT HER!

GOODBYE, BARBARA

BE CAREFUL, BABS!

DAYS LATER

MY DISGUISE SEEMS TO BE EFFECTIVE THEY HAVEN'T SUSPECTED WHO I AM YET

WE'RE NEARLY THERE, JOE!

JUST THEN, IN THE JUNGLES OF COCOS ISLAND -

A TERRIFYING FIGURE OF THE CREATURE LONG SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD, LEAPS FROM THE TREES - THE PANTHER MAN!

GRRR!

OHOO!

MALU!



MY, WHAT A QUAIN PLACE, JOE! SO PEACEFUL!

YEAH! THAT PANTHER MAN STUFF'S A LOT OF BALONEY IF YA ASK ME!



PANTHER MAN! PANTHER MAN!!

HE COME! HE COME!



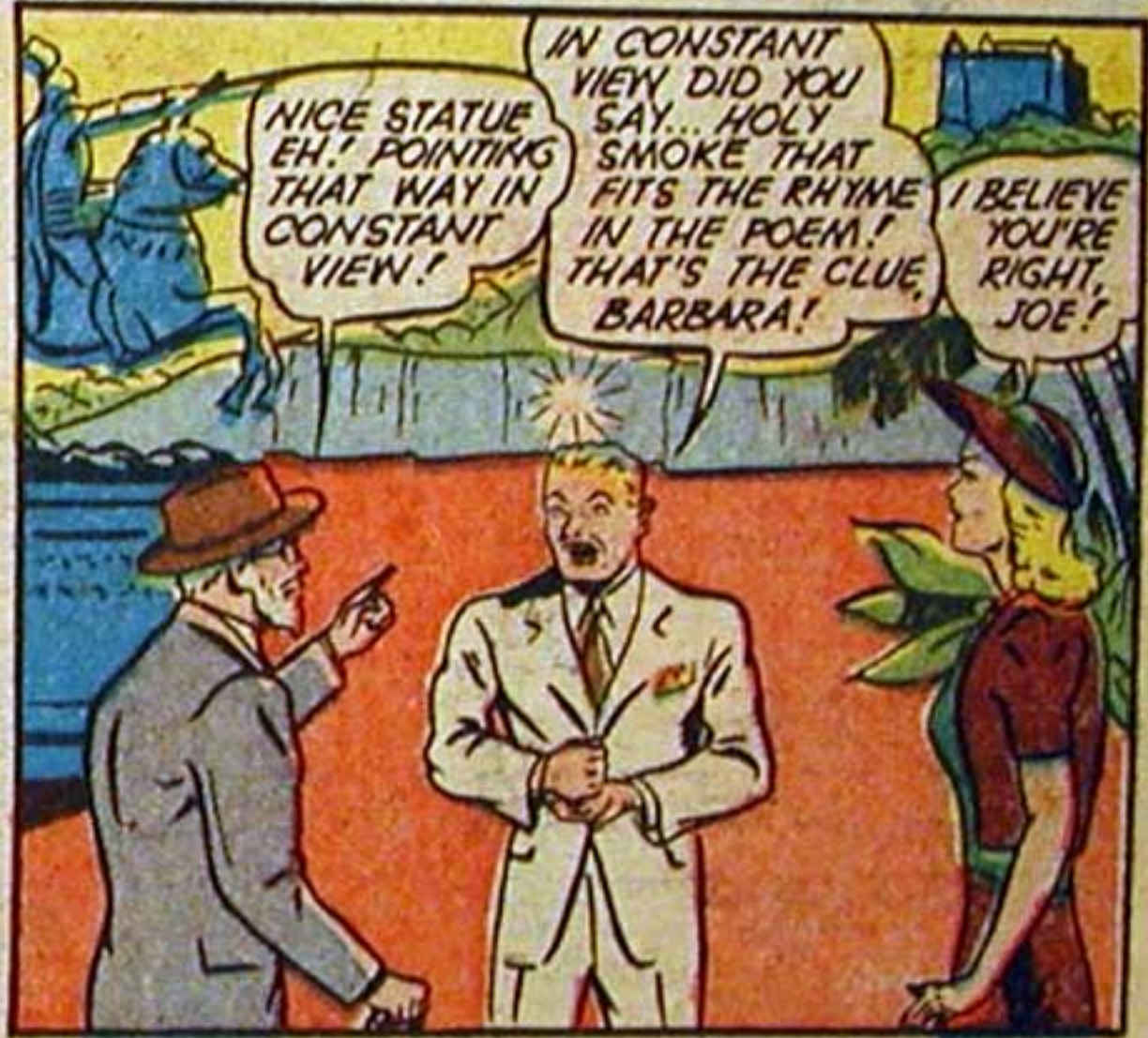
GOOD GRIEF, JOE! THE... THE PANTHER MAN!

TAKE IT EASY, BABS. IF THAT PANTHER MAN TRIES ANY FUNNY STUFF I'LL STUFF HIM LIKE AN OWL!



KIP DISGUISED AS THE OLD MAN, SUDDENLY NOTICES SOMETHINGS WHICH GIVES HIM PAUSE!

HMM! THAT STATUE! POINTING AT THAT CASTLE! GREAT GHOSTS! THAT'S THE FIRST CLUE... NOW TO TRY TO GET IT ACROSS TO JOE AND BARBARA WITHOUT MAKING THEM SUSPICIOUS OF ME!



NICE STATUE EH! POINTING THAT WAY IN CONSTANT VIEW!

IN CONSTANT VIEW DID YOU SAY... HOLY SMOKE THAT FITS THE RHYME IN THE POEM! THAT'S THE CLUE, BARBARA!

I BELIEVE YOU'RE RIGHT, JOE!



BUT JOE WE CAN'T HURRY OFF THIS WAY! OUR BAGGAGE...

I HAD IT SENT TO THE TOWN HOTEL. C'NON! IT WON'T TAKE US LONG TO GET TO THAT CASTLE AND GET THE SECOND CLUE!



WHEW! HERE IT IS! IT TOOK US A LOT LONGER THAN I EXPECTED!

WELL, LET'S GO IN!!



AN OLD MAN. ASK HIM, JOE! MAYBE HE KNOWS!

YEAH! COULD YOU TELL US...

I KNOW! I KNOW! YOU SEEK THE SECOND CLUE! COME RIGHT IN!





HE'S GETTING AWAY!... AND HE'S GOT THE SECOND CLUE! I'LL...

WAIT... DON'T FOLLOW!... I'M DYING! MUST TALK QUICKLY!



I...I... MEMORIZED SECOND CLUE! IT SAYS "CAGED LIKE... A BIRD, KINFOLK TO ME. HE... HOLDS FURTHER KNOWLEDGE... FOR THOSE WHO CAN SEE!... AAAHHH!"



POOR OLD FELLOW, HE'S DEAD!

YES! ANOTHER VICTIM OF THE FATAL CURSE THAT HANGS OVER THAT RUBY!



AT THAT MOMENT, THE PANTHER MAN TRIES TO DECIPHER THE CRYPTIC MEANING OF THE SECOND CLUE--



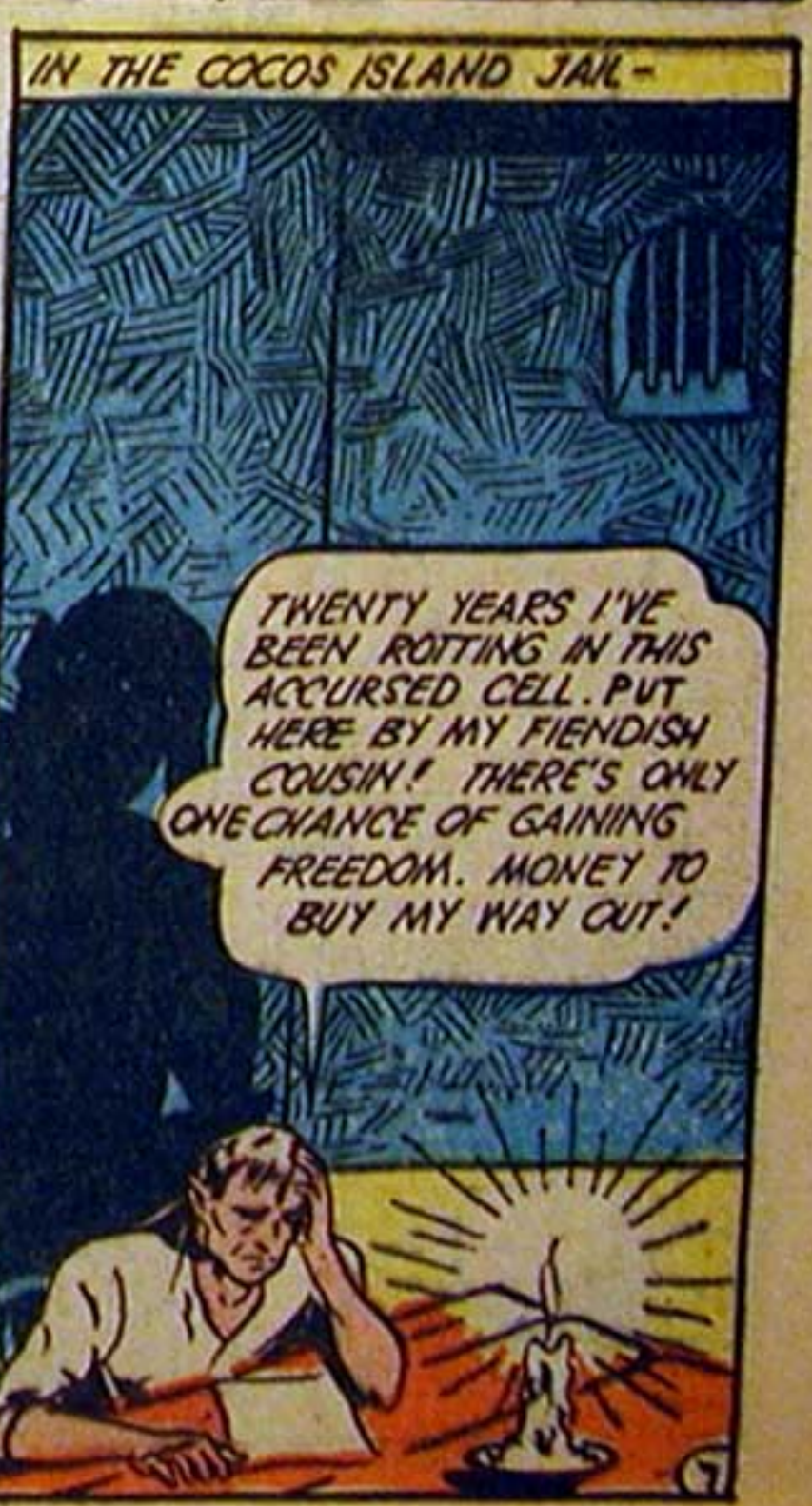
-BUT FAILS, AND RETURNS -CRAFTILY RECKONING ON FOLLOWING THE OTHERS.



"CAGED LIKE A BIRD, EH? THAT COULD MEAN SOMEBODY WHO'S IN PRISON... AND THERE'S ONLY ONE PRISON ON THIS ISLAND!"

YES - BUT YOU DIDN'T, JOE!... WHAT ABOUT THAT "KINFOLK TO ME," PART, HOOD?

ANYBODY COULD FIGURE THAT ONE OUT!



IN THE COCOS ISLAND JAIL -

TWENTY YEARS I'VE BEEN ROTTING IN THIS ACCURSED CELL. PUT HERE BY MY FIENDISH COUSIN! THERE'S ONLY ONE CHANCE OF GAINING FREEDOM. MONEY TO BUY MY WAY OUT!



THAT MIGHT BE SOMEONE WITH THE SAME NAME AS THE FELLOW WHO STARTED THIS TREASURE HUNT!

I GOT IT! A GUY NAMED COOPER WHO'S IN JAIL ON THIS ISLAND!

COOPER! WHY YES! THAT WAS MY GREAT UNCLE'S NAME!



AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE JAILER'S OFFICE

YOU HAVE A PRISONER, HERE, NAMED COOPER! MAY WE SEE HIM?

YES!... FOR A SHORT WHILE... THE GUARD WILL TAKE YOU TO HIM!



SOME VISITORS TO SEE YOU, SENOR COOPER!

THANK YOU GUARD! WILL YOU LEAVE US ALONE FOR A MOMENT?



I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT! THE THIRD CLUE!... I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU! BUT ONE THIRD OF THE RUBY BELONGS TO ME WHEN YOU FIND IT!

IT'S A BARGAIN!



THIS IS THE FOURTH TIME COOPER'S HAD VISITORS

YEAH, FUNNY, THE PEOPLE NEVER VISIT HIM TWICE!



AAARGH

SANTA MARIA! THE PANTHER MAN!



TERRIBLE, SAVAGE CLAWS RIP OUT AGAIN AND AGAIN - UNTIL THE PRISON GUARDS ARE DEAD!

GRRR!

HELP!



... THEN I'LL HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY MY FREEDOM AND... WH... WHAT'S THAT!

HOLY MACKERAL! THE PANTHER MAN!



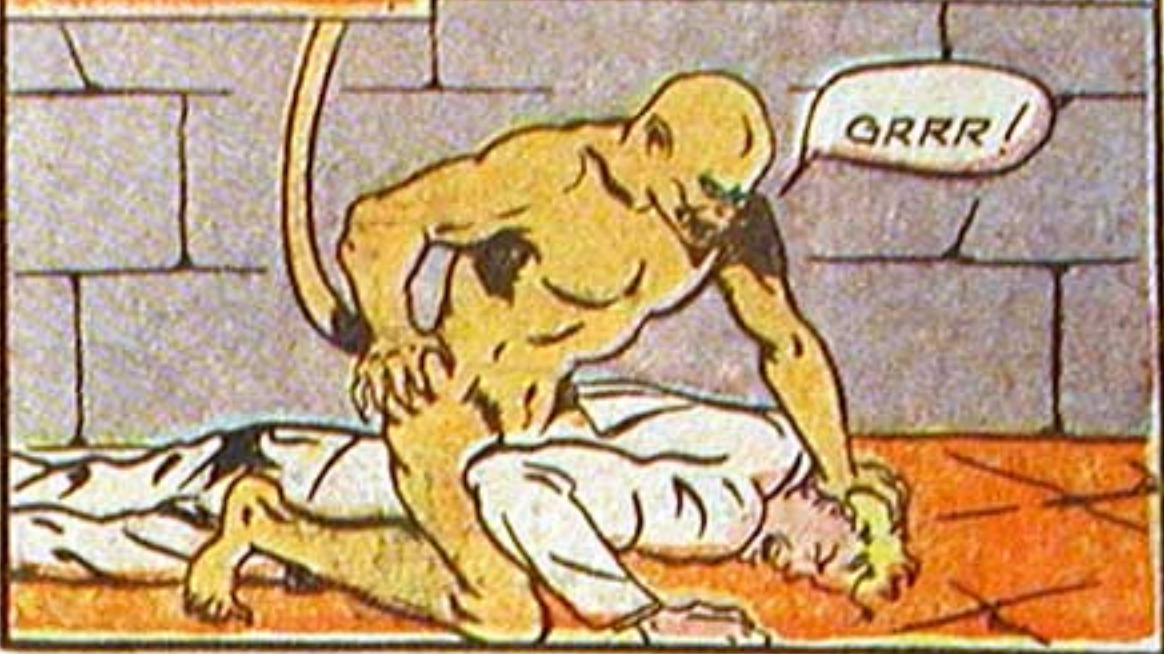
HE... HE'LL KILL ME!... SAVE ME!

HELP! HELP!

HE CAN'T SCARE ME!

GRRRR!

BUT A LITHE TWIST BRINGS THE PANTHER MAN ATOP JOE, A RENDING, TEARING THING OF DESTRUCTION!



GRRR!

AGAIN, THE BLACK HOOD TO THE RESCUE



I ALMOST GOT HERE TOO LATE, THIS TIME!

WOW! HE ALMOST PITCHED A STRIKE ACROSS, THAT TIME!



AARRH!

LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN TAKE IT — IN THE BREADBASKET!



OOF!

JOE STRONG ONCE MORE LEAPS TO THE ATTACK!



LEMME AT THAT SIDE-SHOW FREAK! OOPS!... ..MISSED!

UGH!

GOSH!... I DIDN'T MEAN TO SOCK YOU, HOOD!



YOU NITWIT!.. NOW YOU LET THAT BEAST ESCAPE!

NOT THIS TIME, HE WON'T! I'LL PUT AN END TO HIS MURDEROUS CAREER!



THERE HE GOES!... AND ME AFTER HIM!



CORNERED AT THE CLIFF'S EDGE,
THE PANTHER-MAN TURNS
SNARLING, TO GIVE BATTLE.



A MURDEROUS BLOW
CATCHES THE HOOD OFF-
GUARD!



AND THE PANTHER-MAN HURLS
HIMSELF AT THE PROSTRATE
FIGURE FOR THE KILL!



BOY! YOU MAY
BE LONG ON
MUSCLE, BUT
YOU'RE SURE
SHORT ON BRAINS

IT'S TOO DARK
TO SEE ANYTHING
DOWN THERE!

HE MUST BE
DEAD, HE COULDN'T
HAVE SURVIVED
THAT FALL!



BUT BARBARA IS MISTAKEN!
A TREE, GROWING FROM AN
OUT-JUTTING LEDGE, SAVES
THE PANTHER-MAN'S LIFE



THIS IS THE
THIRD CLUE,
HOOD, CAN
YOU UNRAVEL
IT?

I
CAN
TRY

WHAT'S TH' MATTER
WITH ME, HUH?
AIN'T I THE
GUY THAT FIG-
URED THE
OTHER TWO OUT
?



THE STREAM KEEPS
WINDING, THEN SPLITS
IN TWO!
JUST LIKE THE SHADOW
WHICH POINTS TO THE
CLUE!
AND THERE LIES
THE RUBY OF RAHM

A WINDING STREAM!
THAT MUST BE IT!
WE'LL FOLLOW IT!

I COULDN'T
FIGURED
THAT OUT,
TOO!





HOW MUCH FARTHER MUST WE GO, HOOD?

UNTIL IT SPLITS IN TWO, LIKE THE CLUE SAID!



LOOK, HOOD! THE STREAM! IT SPLITS IN TWO AROUND THAT ROCK!

AND THAT TREE! IT'LL ALSO THROW A SPLIT SHADOW



LOOK! THE SPLIT SHADOW, THERE IT IS!

BUT, IT'S SUPPOSED TO POINT OUT THE LAST CLUE! IT ONLY POINTS TO THAT ROCK!



HEY! THE WATER! IT'S GONE DOWN!

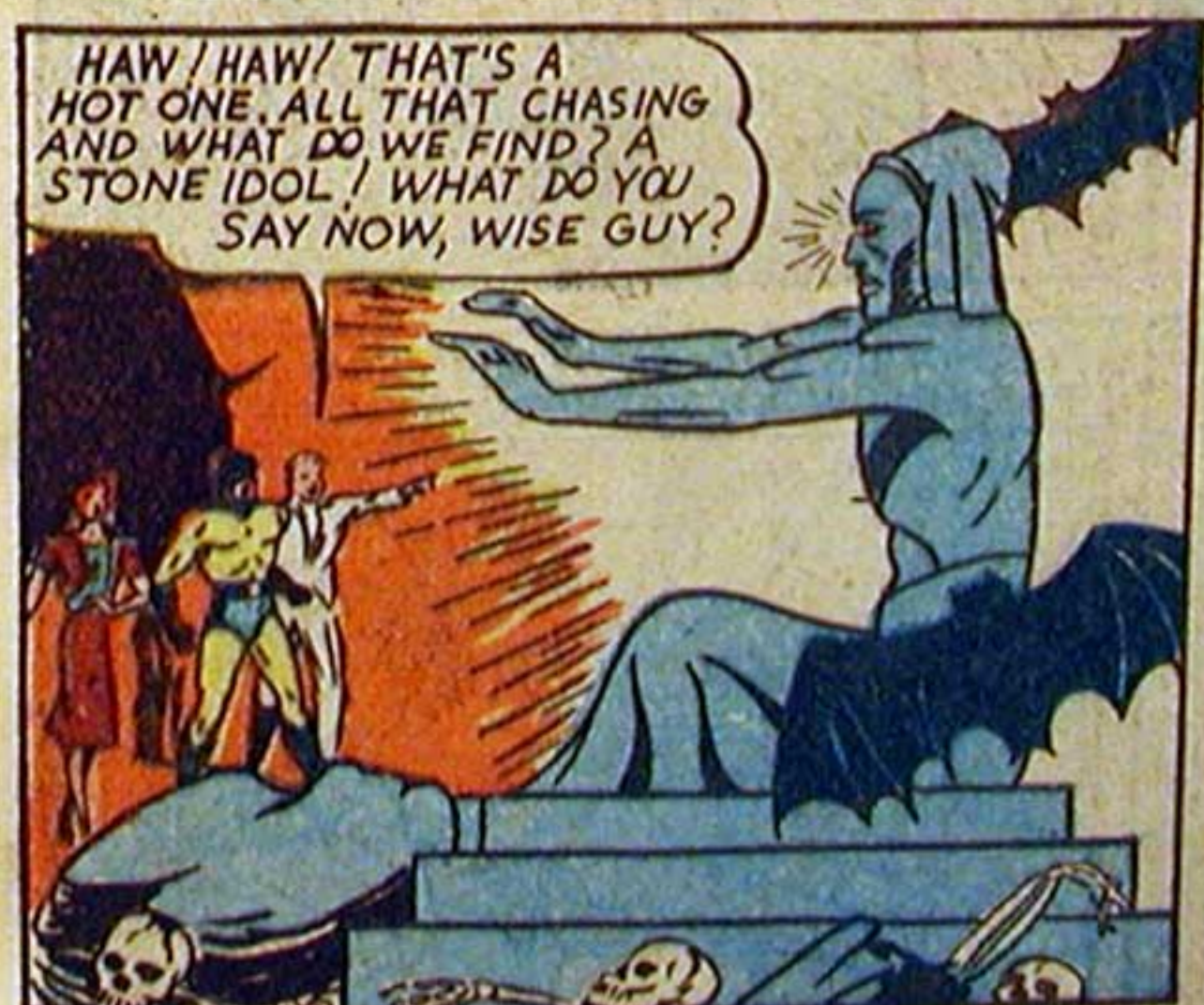
HOOD! A CAVE! HIDDEN UNDER THE WATER!



WELL, THE SHADOW POINTED IT OUT, ALRIGHT! THIS MUST BE IT!



THERE'S SOME KIND OF LIGHT UP AHEAD! I THINK WE'RE AT OUR TRAIL'S END.

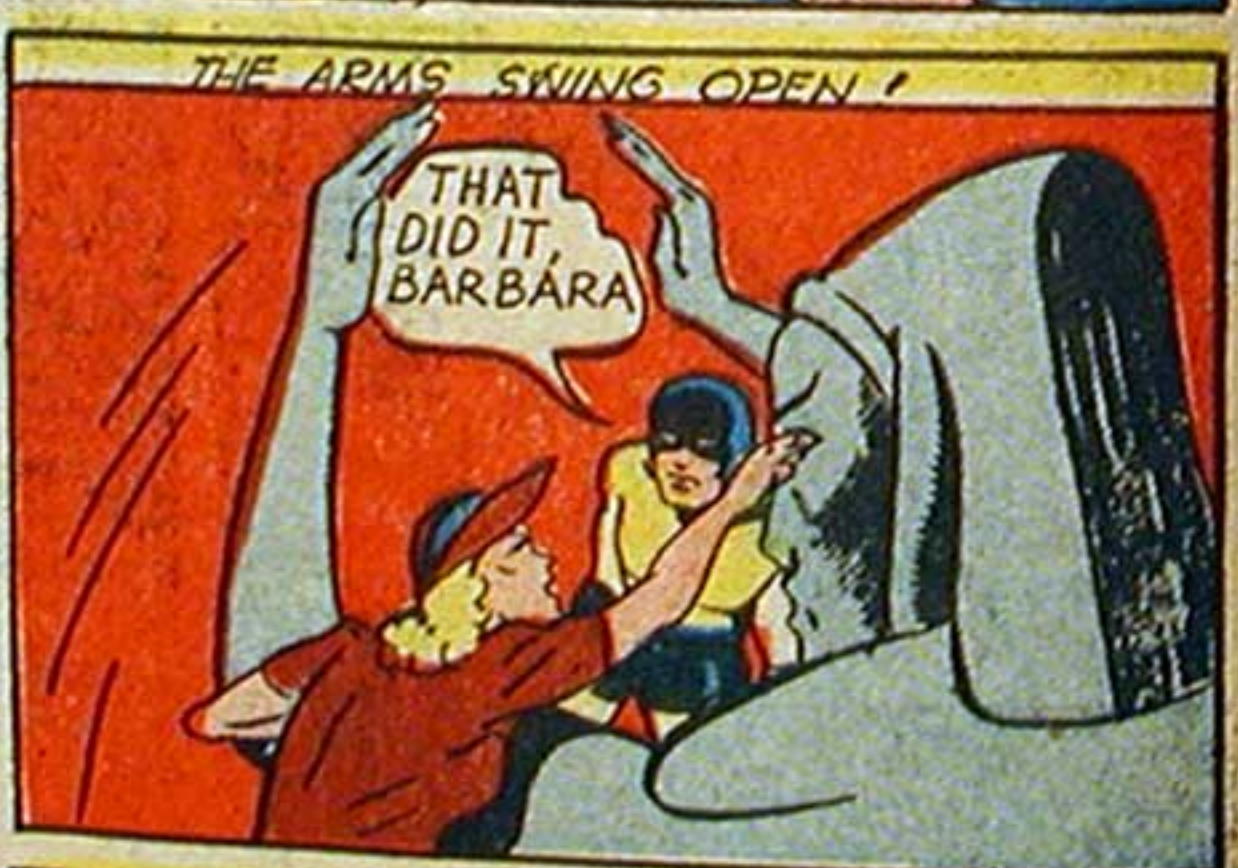
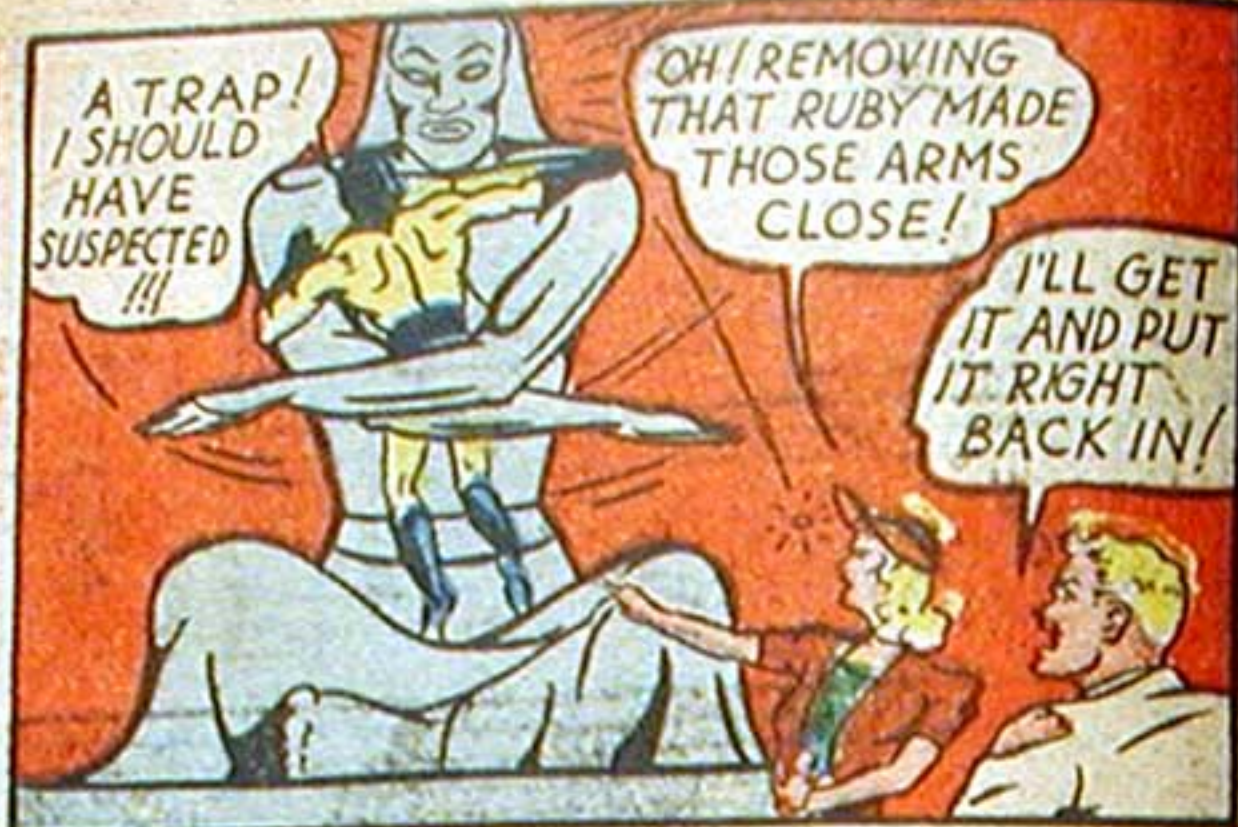


HAW! HAW! THAT'S A HOT ONE. ALL THAT CHASING AND WHAT DO WE FIND? A STONE IDOL! WHAT DO YOU SAY NOW, WISE GUY?



THIS! JUST LOOK AT THAT IDOL'S EYE!

IT GLOWS LIKE FIRE! GOOD HEAVENS, ...IT... IT'S THE RUBY! WE'VE FOUND IT!



AND THE LOOSE BOULDERS TOPPLE!



A DESPERATE TWIST AND THE HOOD ROLLS CLEAR— BUT THE PANTHER MAN IS NOT AS AGILE!



I KNEW IT WAS A DISGUISE ALL ALONG! WELL I'LL BE---



HEAVENS ABOVE! HEMSLEY, MY BUTLER!

I--- I'M DYING--- MIGHT AS WELL CONFESS. I WAS ON THE EXPEDITION WITH YOUR FATHER--- CAME TO YOUR HOME AS BUTLER BECAUSE---



-- BECAUSE I KNEW THE DIARY WAS HIDDEN THERE SOMEWHERE----- TOOK PANTHER-MAN DISGUISE TO COVER MY TRACKS--- ORIGINAL PANTHER-MAN DEAD--- LONG AGO--



HOOD! THE TIDE IS RISING AGAIN!



WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT QUICK! IF IT RISES TOO HIGH WE'LL LOSE THE PASSAGEWAY AND DROWN! I'LL HAVE TO CARRY JOE!



THERE'S THE OPENING AHEAD--- BUT THE CURRENT'S GETTING SO STRONG I CAN HARDLY WALK





THE TIDE RISES TO ITS FULL LEVEL, AND STILL THE THREE DO NOT APPEAR! HAVE THEY MET THEIR DOOM?



BUT AT LAST THE VICTIMS ARE SPOTTED, AND THREE HEADS BOB TO THE SURFACE

I'VE-(PUFF, PUFF)--I'VE GOT THE RUBY!

FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT IT WOULD CLAIM THREE MORE VICTIMS!



YOUR BOY FRIEND TOOK QUITE A MAULING, BUT HE'LL BE O.K.



JOURNEY'S END, HOOD. AND I NEVER WOULD HAVE REACHED IT, BUT FOR YOU-

NOW THAT YOU'VE GOT THE RUBY WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH IT?



I'M GOING TO SELL IT AND GIVE THE PROCEEDS TO THE FAMILIES OF ITS VICTIMS. IT'LL HELP ATONE FOR THE BLOOD IT'S SPILLED

GOOD GIRL!



WELL, YOU WON'T NEED ME ANYMORE! SO LONG

B... BUT, HOOD, WAIT !!

WH... WHAT HIT ME?

DAYS LATER Mrs. SUTTON and KIP await BARBARA at the PIER - in response to her TELEGRAM



THANK HEAVENS SHE'S SAFE, KIP!



WELL, WELL, IF IT ISN'T JOE STRONG, THE BIG PROTECTOR

WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO DO THE PROTECTING, ANYHOW?

YOU STOP TEASING HIM! YOU WERE TOO COWARDLY, EVEN TO GO ALONG

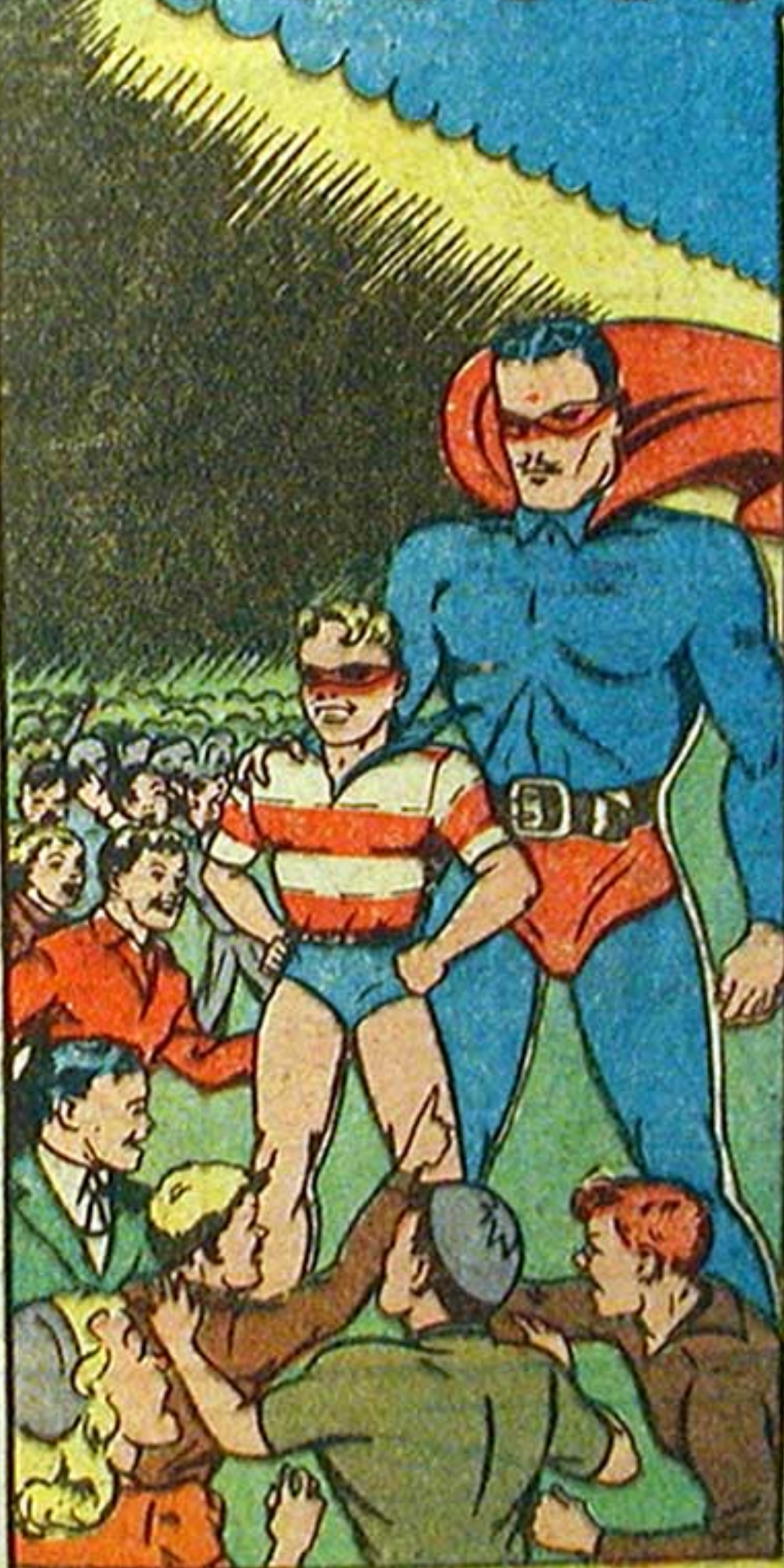
GLUB-M-MPH



Every Issue of The "BLACK HOOD" BRINGS YOU A NEW BATCH OF Unsurpassable, Nerve-Tingling STORIES you'll ever get Anywhere Anytime

THE WIZARD

AND ROY THE SUPER BOY



THE STREETS ARE ALIVE WITH RUSHING, EXCITED YOUNGSTERS ALL CLAMORING AT THE ENTRANCE OF A MOTION PICTURE THEATRE; ALL FEARFUL THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GAIN ENTRY BECAUSE OF THE OVERFLOW CROWDS!

IN AN EVERYDAY HOME



JOHN! YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN WHAT'S PLAYING AT THE MOVIES TODAY, HAVE YOU?

LET'S HURRY, DADDY!

ANOTHER SCENE -

OH DEAR! I HAVEN'T BEEN SO EXCITED SINCE I WAS A GIRL!

AND TO THINK, THEY'RE FINALLY ON THE SCREEN.



HOME FOR AGED WOMEN

AND AGAIN -

OH, JIMMIE-LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES. YOU KNOW WHO'S PLAYING TONIGHT?

I SURE DO! LET'S GO!



BLANE WHITNEY AND ROY ARE OUT WALKING



WOW! LOOK AT THAT CROWD TRYING TO GET INTO THE MOVIES! WONDER WHAT THE GREAT ATTRACTION IS?

LET'S GO ACROSS AND FIND OUT!



HAW, HAW! BLANE! LOOKA! IT'S US!

WELL, I'LL BE... HOW'D THEY GET THOSE... WE'RE GOING IN!

FIRST NEWSREEL FLASHES OF THE WIZARD AND ROY THE SUPER-BOY!



WAIT YER TURN HERE, MISTER! WHO DO YA THINK YOU ARE - THE WIZARD?

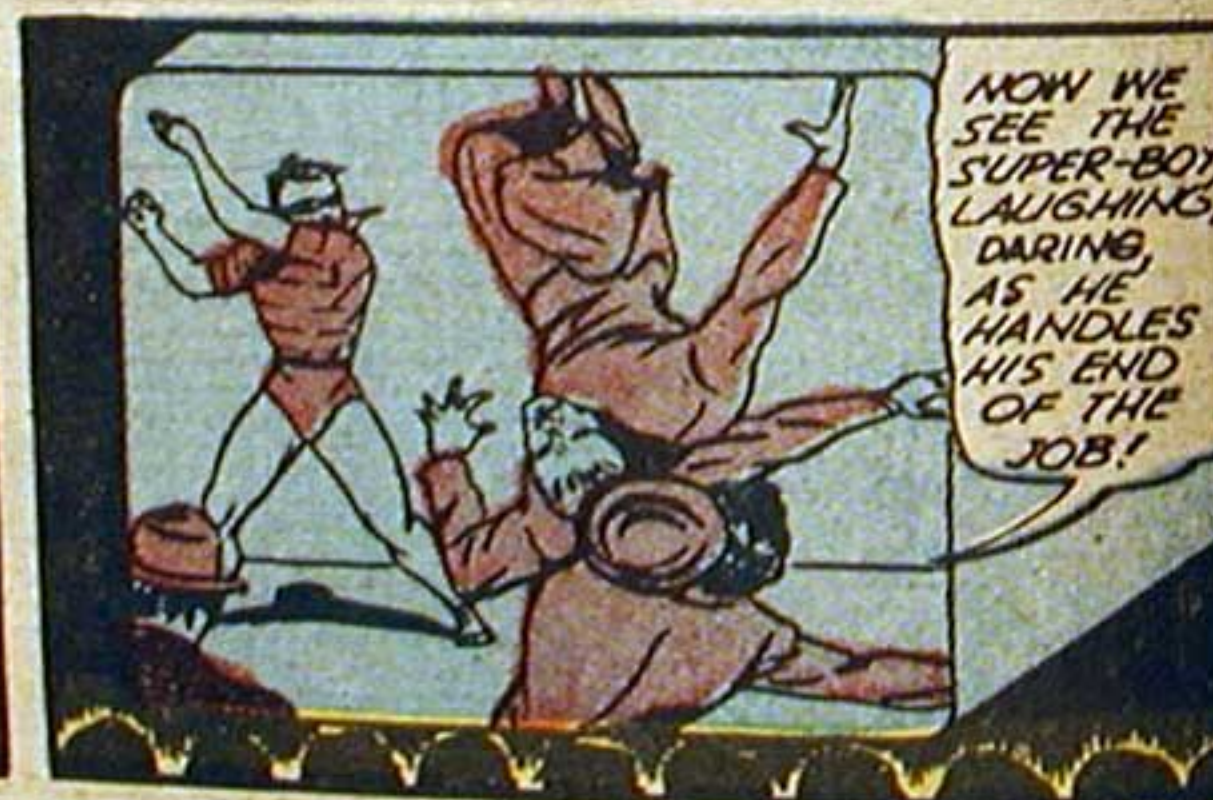
WISE GUY, HUH!



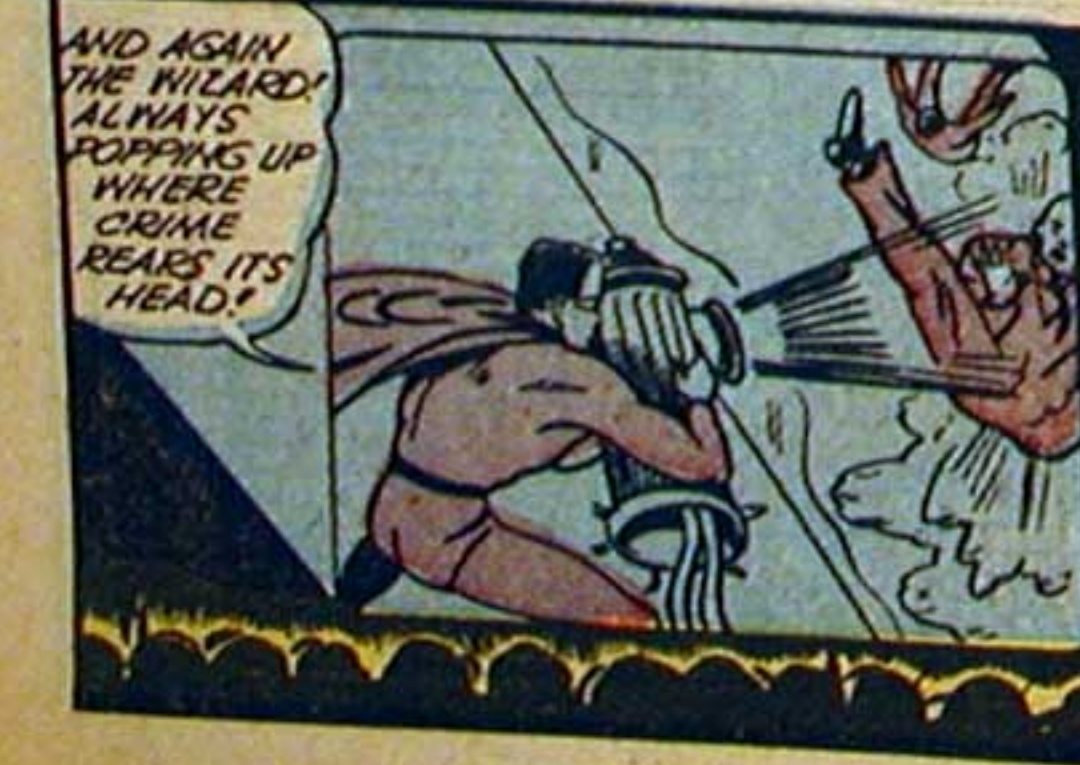
FOR THE FIRST TIME ON THE SCREEN, FOLKS, THE SPECTACULAR FEATS OF THOSE TWO INCOMPARABLES - THE WIZARD AND ROY THE SUPER-BOY -



CAUGHT IN ACTION BY OUR CAMERAMAN WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE! HERE WE SEE THE WIZARD HOLDING UP BOULDER DAM WHICH HAS BEEN BLASTED BY SABOTEURS!



NOW WE SEE THE SUPER-BOY LAUGHING, DARING, AS HE HANDLES HIS END OF THE JOB!



AND AGAIN THE WIZARD! ALWAYS POPPING UP WHERE CRIME REARS ITS HEAD!



THE WIZARD AND ROY - THE MOST DEVASTATING DUO CRIME-LAND EVER HAS KNOWN OR EVER WILL KNOW!

THE NEWSREEL IS OVER-THE LIGHTS FLASH ON.



WHATTA MAN!

WHATTA KID!

MORE! MORE!

LET'S SEE IT AGAIN!

IN THE MANAGERS OFFICE...



WHAT'LL I DO? I'VE RUN IT FIVE TIMES ALREADY! AND STILL THEY KEEP YELLIN' FOR IT!

GIVE IT TO 'EM! IT'S TERRIFIC! ..NEVER MIND THE REGULAR FEATURE!



WHERE'S THE WIZARD AND THE KID?

I GUESS THIS CALLS FOR THE PERSONAL TOUCH, EH, BLANE?

YES, ROY! IT WARMS MY HEART TO SEE THE PEOPLE WE'RE FIGHTING FOR ARE SO APPRECIATIVE!



THEN FROM THE BALCONY FLASH TWO UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED FIGURES.....THE WIZARD AND THE SUPER-BOY!



WOW!... THE STRAIN MUSTA GOT ME?... I'M BEGINNING TO SEE THINGS!

NO! IT'S REALLY THEM! THE WIZARD AND ROY, THE SUPER BOY IN PERSON! QUICK! WE'LL GIVE 'EM THE SPOTLIGHT!



YOU DO THE TALKIN' WIZARD, HUH?

G...GOSH!... IF THEY KNEW HOW MY KNEES WERE SHAKING, THEY WOULDN'T THINK I WAS SUCH A HERO!



HEY WIZARD! TELL US ABOUT ONE OF YOUR ADVENTURES, HUH?

YEAH! SURE! A REAL SCARY ONE!



VERY WELL! I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT OUR WEIRDEST EXPERIENCE-HOW ROY AND MYSELF SUBDUED A VAMPIRE!

THAT'S A REAL GOOD ONE TOO, FOLKS!

IN A LITTLE TOWN CALLED ELMSVILLE, DISASTER IS ABOUT TO STRIKE! AS ONE OF ITS INHABITANTS PEACEFULLY SLEEPS,..... THE WINDOW IS STEALTHILY RAISED, AND-



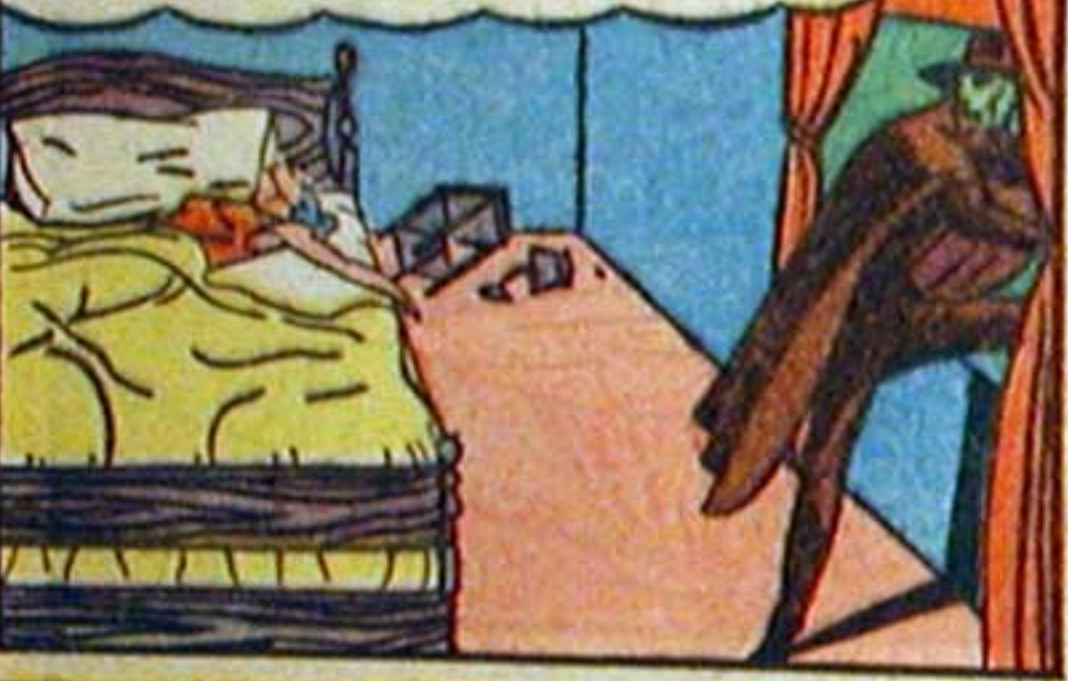
A GHOULISH FIGURE LEAPS INTO THE ROOM.



BLOOD! BLOOD!

EEE! HELP! HELP!

WHEN THE CREATURE LEAVES, A GHASTLY BLOODLESS CORPSE IS STRETCHED OUT ON THE BED, WHERE ONCE THERE HAD BEEN A BEAUTIFUL GIRL!



ROY AND MYSELF WERE MOTORING THROUGH THE TOWN. WE HEARD THE CRIES, AND IMMEDIATELY MADE FOR THE SCENE.



BUT TOO LATE!



GREAT LORD... THOSE MARKS ON HER THROAT... THE WORK OF A VAMPIRE, ROY!



C'MON!... MAYBE IT ISN'T TOO LATE TO CATCH HIM!

I DON'T SEE HIM ANYWHERE AROUND, WIZARD!



WIZARD! THAT SIGN! LOOK!



DRACULA!

THE ORIGINAL PRODUCTION TO BE PRESENTED TOMORROW EVENING AT THE ELMHURST THEATER! DON'T MISS IT, FOLKS! THE THRILL OF A LIFETIME! ADMISSION..... 50¢

NEXT DAY, THE NEWS OF THE VAMPIRE KILLINGS
RUNS LIKE WILDFIRE THROUGH THE STREETS
OF ELMVILLE....

MARY ROBBINS
MURDERED
BY A VAMPIRE!
HOW HOR-
RIBLE!

AND JUST
WHEN THAT
DRACULA
SHOW CAME
TO TOWN!

IT'S NO COINCIDENCE,
I TELL YOU! SOME-
BODY IN THAT
SHOW IS RE-
SPONSIBLE!



THAT NIGHT, AN OMINOUS CROWD
STORMS INTO THE THEATER....

BACKSTAGE!

THERE GOES THE CURTAIN
CALL! I'LL GET INTO MY
DRACULA OUTFIT!
HURRY ALICE!...
YOU'RE MY
VICTIM!
HA HA!

I'LL BE
RIGHT
ALONGS!



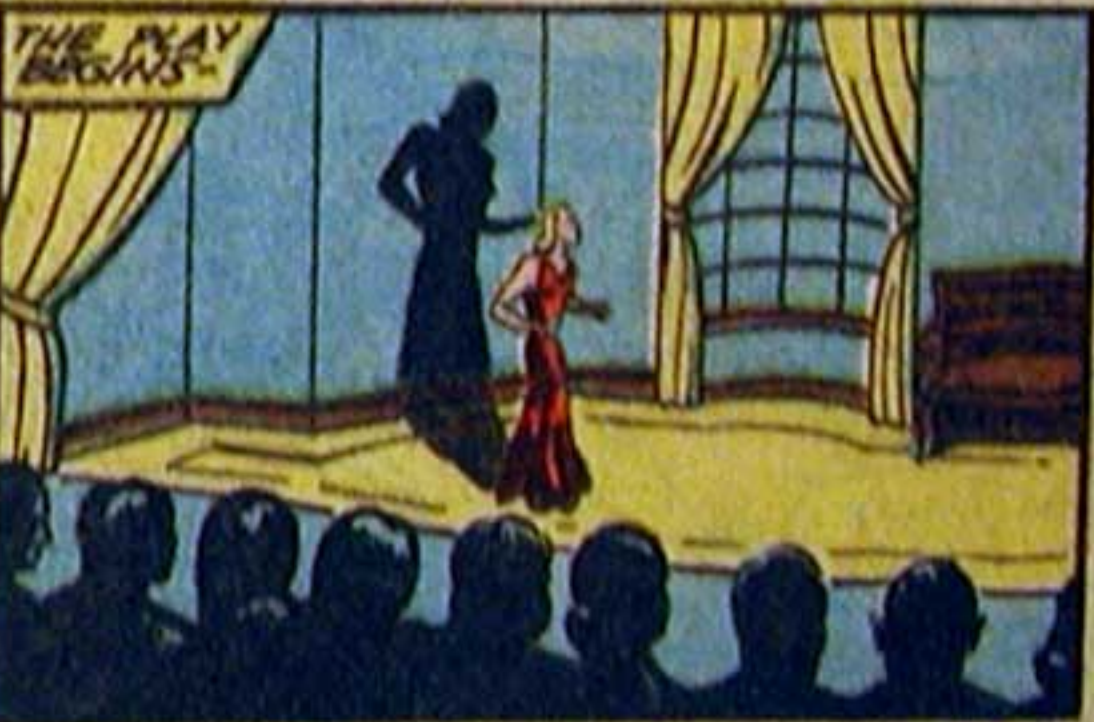
HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW STRANGE KIMBALL
HAS BEEN BEHAVING, ALICE? AL-
MOST AS THOUGH THE PART HE
PLAYS ON THE STAGE HAS
GOTTEN INTO HIS BLOOD!

YOU'RE
JOKING,
HARLEY!



I'M HIS UNDERSTUDY AND I KNOW HOW THAT
PART SHOULD BE PLAYED! IN THE LAST
TOWN HE... HE ALMOST FRIGHTENED ME!
AND NOW THE KILLINGS LAST NIGHT
... WELL JUST BE CAREFUL, ALICE!

GOOD
HEAVENS!
PERHAPS
YOU'RE
RIGHT!



THE PLAY
BEGINS-

BLOOD!
BLOOD! I
WANT YOUR
BLOOD!



YOUNG, FRESH BLOOD TO QUENCH
MY THIRST!

NO!
HELP!





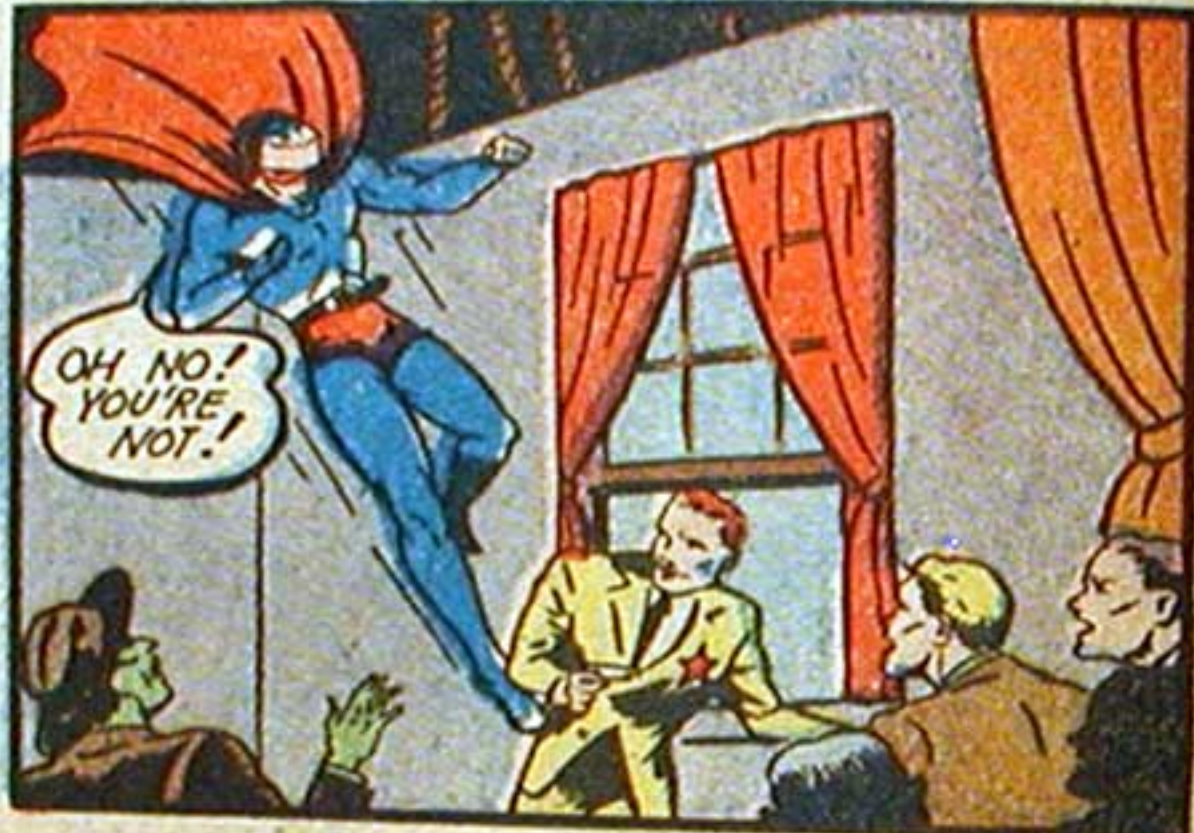
HELP ME SOMEBODY!
CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S NOT ACTING!
HE'S A VAMPIRE!
HELP!
HELP!



THE THEATRE SUDDENLY BECOMES A BEDLAM AS THE SPECTATORS SWARM TOWARD THE STAGE...
WHA... WHO...
HE KILLED MARY ROBBINS!



WE HAVE NO PROOF!
LET THE LAW HANDLE THIS!
GET OUT OF OUR WAY, SHERIFF!
WE'RE TAKING THE LAW IN OUR OWN HANDS!



OH NO!
YOU'RE NOT!



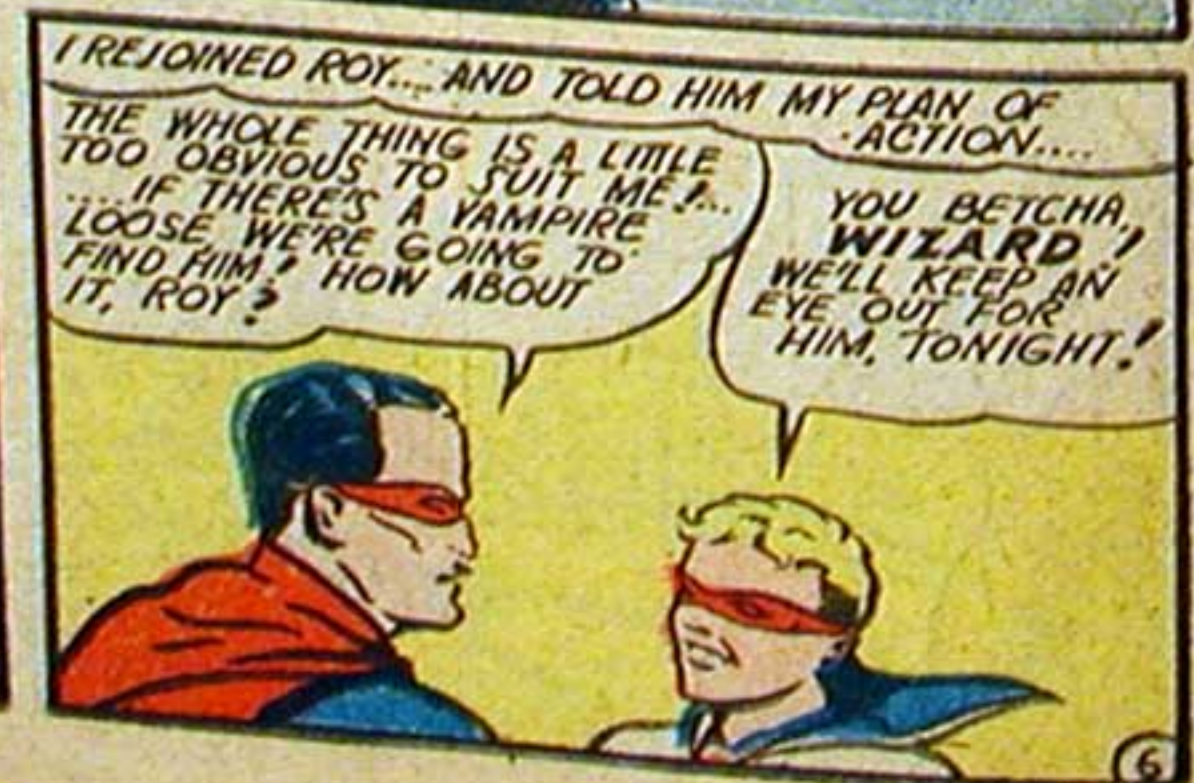
I'M TAKING THE LAW INTO MY HANDS!...
HEY! STOP!



WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US?
TO THE JAIL!... THAT'S WHERE YOU WANTED TO GO IN THE FIRST PLACE, WASN'T IT?



I'M NO VAMPIRE!
LET ME FREE!
THANKS, WIZARD!
THERE'LL BE COOLER HEADS IN THE MORNING TO DETERMINE IF HE'S REALLY THE VAMPIRE!
... WELL, SO LONG!



I REJOINED ROY... AND TOLD HIM MY PLAN OF ACTION...
THE WHOLE THING IS A LITTLE TOO OBVIOUS TO SUIT ME!... IF THERE'S A VAMPIRE LOOSE, WE'RE GOING TO FIND HIM! HOW ABOUT IT, ROY?
YOU BETCHA, WIZARD! WE'LL KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR HIM, TONIGHT!

LATER, THAT EVENING

JOHN! OH JOHN! DANG IT! I GO OUT FOR A FEW MINUTES AND THAT DEPUTY OF MINE FALLS ASLEEP!



GREAT SCOT! HE'S DEAD! AND THAT VAMPIRE'S ESCAPED!



USH! WHAT A SIGHT! BLOOD-LESS AS A STONE AND THOSE TOOTH MARKS IN HIS THROAT!



HE WAS THE VAMPIRE AFTER ALL! WHAT A FOOL I WAS TO LEAVE! BUT HE WON'T ESCAPE! I'LL FIND HIM IF I HAVE TO TEAR APART EVERY HOUSE IN ELMSTOWN!



AT THAT MOMENT, THE DREAD FIGURE OF THE WERE-WOLF CLIMBS TOWARD A WINDOW-INTENT UPON A GRISLY TASK!



BUT THE KEEN EYES OF THE SUPER-BOY SPOT HIM!



THERE HE GOES!

AND ME RIGHT AFTER HIM!



UNEXPECTED COMPANY, EH BUCK-TOOTH?

WHO... HELP!





SO IT'S BLOOD YOU WANT, HUH? OKAY! I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU - YOUR OWN!

UGH!



YOU IMP OF SATAN! I'LL... OOF!

YOU'LL WHAT? TEAR ME APART MAYBE? LIKE THIS!



NO! LIKE THIS!



BOY! HE SURE SLIPPED A FAST ONE OVER ON ME THAT TIME!... BUT HE'S NOT GOING TO GET AWAY FROM ME!



LATER, THE TOWNSPEOPLE HERE STARTLED TO SEE DRACULA RUNNING THROUGH THE STREETS - BLOOD SMEARED OVER HIS FACE!

THERE HE IS BOYS! ... LET'S GET HIM!

THE VAMPIRE!



DAZEDLY - AS THOUGH SATATED WITH BLOOD, THE VAMPIRE PUTS UP NO RESISTANCE!

THAT BLOOD ON HIS FACE! ... IT'S THE DEPUTY'S! THAT CLINCHES IT!...



TO THE CEMETERY, BOYS! ONLY ONE WAY TO KILL A VAMPIRE - BURY HIM WITH A CROSS THROUGH HIS HEART!



BUT MY MIND WAS STIRRED BY A VAGUE MIS-GIVING! I BROUGHT MY PHOTOGRAPHIC VISION INTO PLAY, AND NOW!

THE VAMPIRE! THE MOB'S GOT HIM!



OKAY! DRIVE THAT STAKE INTO HIS HEART!..... WE'LL HOLD HIM!



I RACED MADLY TOWARD THE CEMETERY... GRIMLY DETERMINED TO SAVE THE SUPPOSED VAMPIRE FOR I WAS STILL UNCONVINCED THAT HE WAS THE WERE-WOLF!



I ARRIVED NOT A SPLIT SECOND TOO SOON.....

DROP THAT!



I WAS IN A QUANDARY! I HAD NO VALID REASON TO KEEP THE UNHOLY CREATURE FROM MEETING ITS JUST FATE.... AND YET....

LET US AT HIM!

WIZARD OR NOT... YOU WON'T STOP US!



SUDDENLY... THE SHERIFF BURST THROUGH THE THROG WITH STARTLING NEWS....

STOP! HE'S NO VAMPIRE! I'VE CAUGHT THE REAL KILLER!

WHAT!



YOUR SIDEKICK, THE SUPERBOY BROUGHT HIM INTO MY OFFICE JUST NOW.... A LOT WORSE FOR WEAR!

HA! HA! THAT KID'LL NEVER LEARN TO PULL HIS PUNCHES!



HIYA, WIZARD... THIS BIRD GOT ME MAD WHEN HE SLIPPED A LUCKY PUNCH ACROSS!

THAT PUNCH CERTAINLY DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT WAS LUCKY.... FOR HIM!



WH... WHERE... WHAT!... THAT FELLOW!... I REMEMBER NOW!....

REMEMBER WHAT?



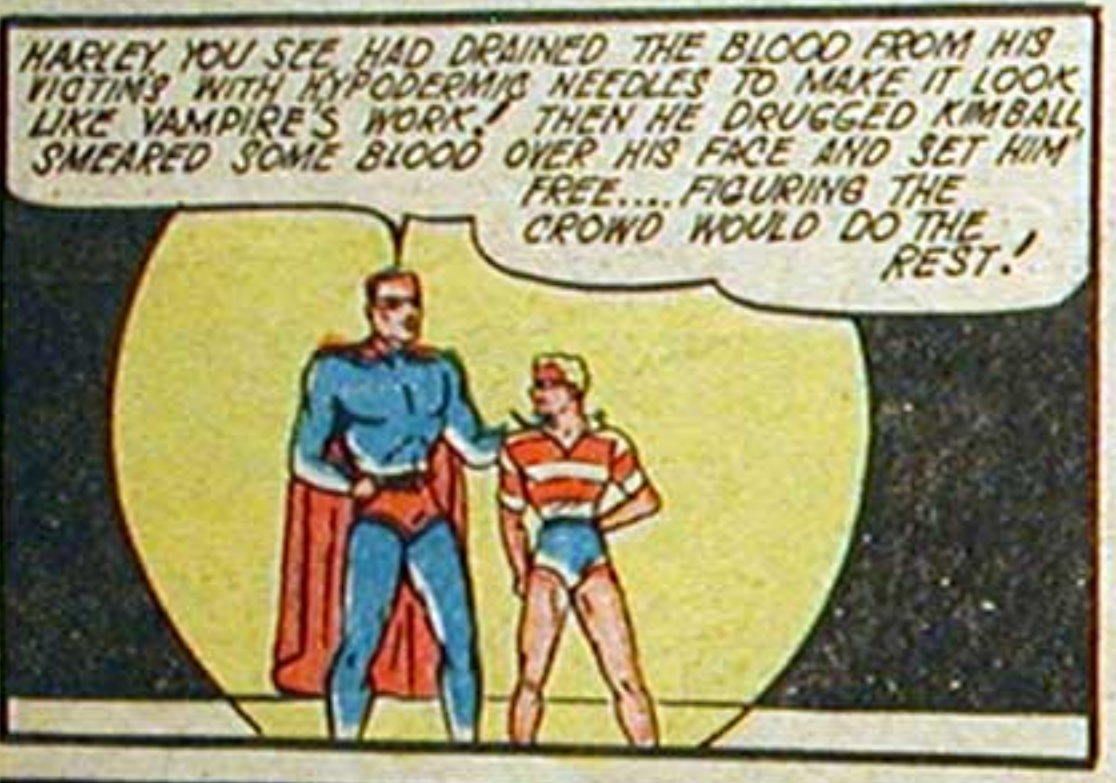
HE KILLED THE GUARD AND BROKE INTO MY CELL!... THEN HE JABBED A NEEDLE INTO MY ARM... AND EVERYTHING WENT BLACK!

I'LL TAKE OFF THE MASK!



GREAT HEAVENS! HARLEY!... MY UNDERSTUDY!

YES! BUT HE'S GOING TO PLAY THE STAR ROLE IN AN ELECTRIC CHAIR SCENE!



HARLEY YOU SEE HAD DRAINED THE BLOOD FROM HIS VICTIMS WITH HYPODERMIC NEEDLES TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE VAMPIRE'S WORK! THEN HE DRUGGED KIMBALL FREE... FIGURING THE CROWD WOULD DO THE REST!



BUT WHY DID HE WANT TO FRAME KIMBALL, WIZARD?



SUPPOSE YOU ANSWER THAT QUESTION ROY!... YOU CAUGHT THE MURDERER, YOU KNOW!....

SURE, WIZARD!



THE SHOW HAD MADE A HIT AND WAS HEADED FOR BROADWAY! HARLEY, WHOSE MIND WAS A LITTLE DISEASED ANYWAY, WANTED THAT LEAD ROLE IN THE WORST WAY... AND I MEAN "WORST" SO HE PICKED THIS WAY OF GETTING RID OF THE GUY!



JIMMY!... THERE'S A BOY I'D BE PROUD TO HAVE YOU PATTERN YOURSELF AFTER!

YOU AND ME BOTH, DAD!... GEE! I WISH I COULD BE LIKE ROY!

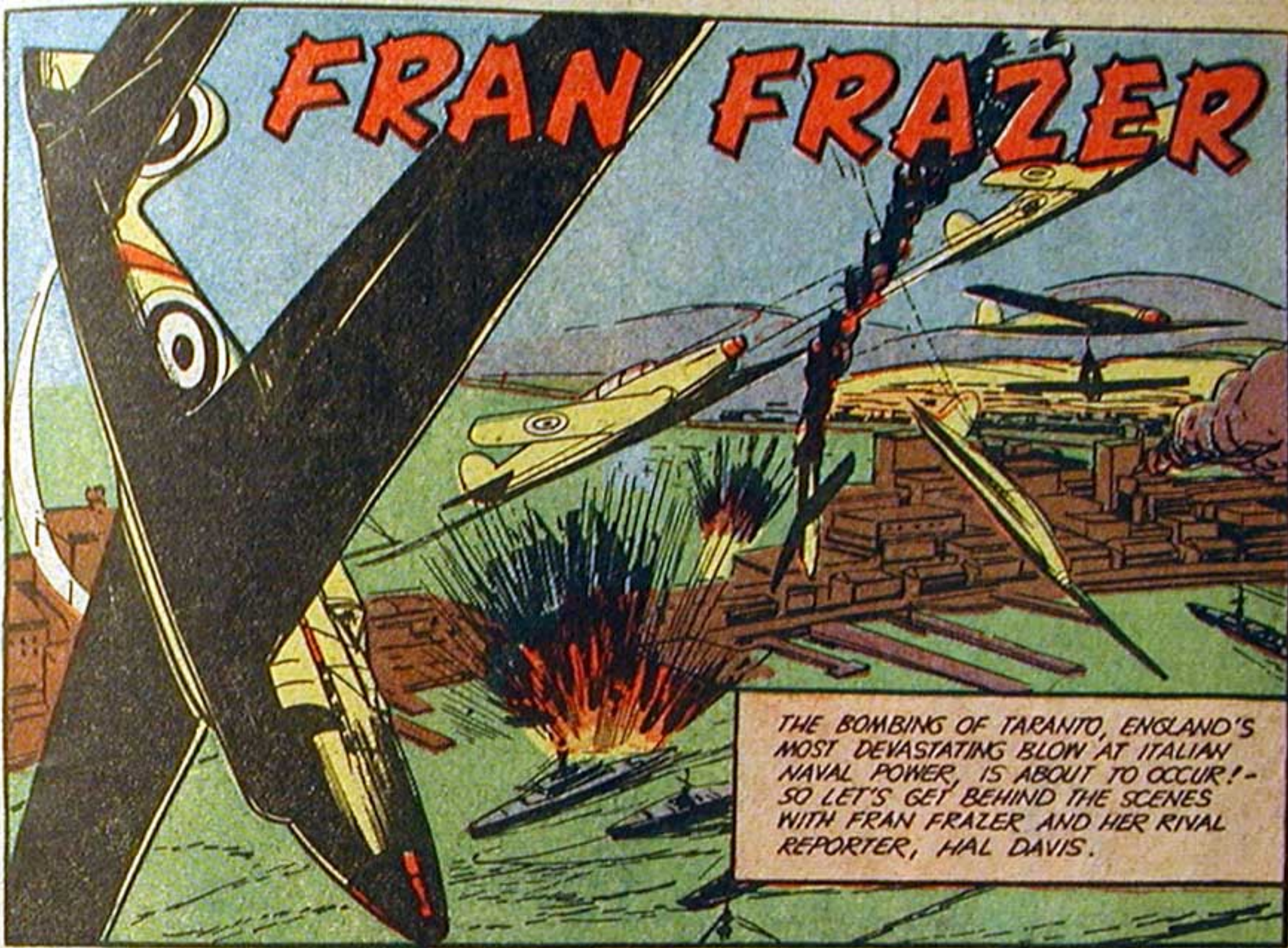


I HEARD YOU JIMMY! IF YOU REALLY WISH TO BE LIKE ROY THEN YOU ARE LIKE ROY... BECAUSE ROY IS BATTLING FOR THOSE SAME IDEALS YOU HOLD CLOSE TO YOUR HEART!

JUSTICE, HONESTY... AND HIS COUNTRY!

EVERY ISSUE OF THE WIZARD AND ROY THE SUPERBOY WILL SERVE TO CONVINCING YOU OF THE TRUTH IN THE WIZARD'S STATEMENT... AND EVERY ISSUE WILL BRING THEM CLOSER TO YOUR HEARTS! YOU CAN'T GO WRONG WITH TOPNOTCH COMICS!

FRAN FRAZER



THE BOMBING OF TARANTO, ENGLAND'S MOST DEVASTATING BLOW AT ITALIAN NAVAL POWER, IS ABOUT TO OCCUR! - SO LET'S GET BEHIND THE SCENES WITH FRAN FRAZER AND HER RIVAL REPORTER, HAL DAVIS.

IN ONE OF THE BRITISH BOMBERS.



HI YA BOYS!

MY WORD... A STOW-AWAY!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

THIS SEEMED THE BEST WAY TO GET SOME AUTHENTIC BOMBING PICS! SO I'M HERE!



HEY, STOP SHOVING! LEGGO!

HAL DAVIS! SO YOU FOLLOWED ME, EH?

ANOTHER STOWAWAY!



YES! I'M NOT LETTING YOU SCOOP ME ANYMORE FRAN.

MAY I REMIND YOU BOTH THAT THIS IS A WAR! A REAL ONE!



AND BOTH OF YOU ARE IN FOR PLENTY OF TROUBLE WHEN WE GET BACK! - MEANWHILE, GET YOUR CHUTES ON!

NOW YOU SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE, YOU FATHEAD!

AT THAT MOMENT, AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT SHELL SCORES A DIRECT HIT!



WE'RE FALLING! BAIL OUT!



I HAVEN'T GOT MY CHUTE ON YET

OOOF!



IF I DON'T I WON'T BE ABLE TO CATCH MYNE -EVER!

HEY DON'T HOLD ME SO TIGHT! I CAN'T CATCH MY BREATH!



SNAPPING PICTURES AT A TIME LIKE THIS! YOU'RE EVEN SCREWIER THAN I THOUGHT!

STOP WAGGING YOUR CHIN! IT UPSETS MY FOCUS!



WHAT A PLACE TO LAND! RIGHT IN THE THICK OF THE BOMBING!



YOU'RE RUNNING THE WRONG WAY, SCREWBALL! WANNA GET YOUR EARS SHOT OFF?

LET GO OF ME! I CAME ALONG TO SNAP PICTURES! AND I'M GOING TO SNAP THEM!



THERE'S PLENTY OF ACTION BACK AT THE HARBOR -AND THAT'S WHERE I'M GOING! AND THANKS FOR THE BUGGY RIDE!

OF ALL THE LAME - BRAINED DAMES!



WAIT A MINUTE I'M GOING WITH YOU!

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD! C'MON! AND DON'T FORGET TO DUCK!

STANDING IN THE THICK OF FIRE,
FRAN'S CAMERA WORKS OVERTIME



A DIRECT
HIT ON A
BATTLE
SHIP!

THE BATTLE'S OVER!
HOPE YOU'RE SATISFIED!
...OH!...OH! SPAGHETTI
SOLDIERS! WE'RE
TRAPPED! THEY'LL
SHOOT US FOR
SPIES!



DUCK BEHIND
THESE BALES! I'VE
GOT AN IDEA!

IT BET-
TER WORK
OR WE'LL
BE PUSH-
ING UP
DAISIES



WE MUSTA GO
FAST TO THE
BOATA, PIETRO!

HELLO,
BOYS.

MAYBE WE
NO SHOULDA
HURRY, PIETRO!
IT'S A BAD
FOR THE
HEART!

SURE!... AND
WE WORKA
TOO HARD
ANYWAY,
DINO!



SHE'S A GO BEHIND
THE BALE, PIETRO!
ER... AHM! WELL!
WHAT WE WAITA
FOR?

LET'S
A GO!



I GUESS IT'S THE SAME
THE WORLD OVER! WE'RE
ALL SUCKERS FOR A
DAME!



BOY! THESE ITALIAN
OFFICERS' UNIFORMS ARE
QUICK FITS! HOPE WE
GET AWAY WITH IT!

WHAT WE NEED
NOW IS SOME
THING TO GET
US OUT IN A
HURRY! -
AND HERE IT
COMES! A MOTORCYCLE!



VAS IST
DASS!
WHY YOU
STOP
US?

BOY! HEINIES!
THIS IS A PIECE
OF LUCK!

ARRESTO!
PASTA FAZOLE
RAYIOLA!



VOT YOU SAY? VE DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU SO GOOT!

SPIKKA DA ENGLISH, EH? QUEEKA! DA MOTORCYCLE! WE MUSTA CHASE SPIES!



DAS MOTORCYCLE, HE SAY? VOT VE DO?

I DON'T KNOW! YE HAFF BEEN GIFFEN STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO GO TO HEAD-QUARTERS!



DESE ARE EYTALIAN OFFICERS! VE BETTER DO AS DEY SAY!

JA! HANS!

WOW! IT WORKED FRAN!

SHH! HAL!



STOP A' STOP A' SPIES!

HANG LOOK!

VOT GIVES!



DUCE!

DUCE!

DUCE!



SO FAR, SO GOOD! NOW ALL WE GOTTA DO IS TRAVEL OVER 100 MILES TO THE BORDER AND PRAY OUR GAS HOLDS OUT!

I'VE WALKED HOME FROM RIDES BEFORE!



NEXT DAY, THE TWO DICTATORS HOLD A CONFERENCE

THE BRITISHERS HAVE WIPED OUT HALF OF OUR FLEET!

VE MUST DENY IT! OUR PRESTIGE YILL SUFFER! CALL IN OUR PROPAGANDA MINISTERS IMMEDIATELY!



VE WILL CLAIM A GREAT VICTORY FOR OUR SIDE! HERR GOEBBELS! VOT ISS IT?

HEIL HITLER! DIS IS DISASTROUS! LOOK! AN AMERICAN NEWSPAPER!



EXTRA
STORY BY HAL DAVIS
PICTURES BY FRAN FRAZER
UNDENIABLE PROOF OF DAMAGE DONE BY BRITISH AT TARANTO

FRAN FRAZER APPEARS IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF TOP NOTCH COMICS

KEITH KORNELL

WEST POINTER

CHARGE 'EM, MEN....
WE'VE GOT 'EM ON
THE RUN!



BY N. JUDAW

KEITH KORNELL,
WHO IS ON SPECIAL
DUTY IN A DRAFT
CAMP, IS OUT WITH
HIS PLATOON ON
WAR MANEUVERS!

HALT MEN!... THEY'RE
RETREATING



WE'LL BREAK UP INTO SCOUT-
ING PARTIES, AND ROUND
THEM UP!



**KEITH'S STRATEGY IS PUT INTO
IMMEDIATE EFFECT!**





KEITH IS SOON REVIVED!

I'M OKAY NOW!... ONE OF YOU TAKE CARE OF THE KID!... THE REST OF US ARE GOING AFTER THOSE KIDNAPPERS!



THEY'LL HAVE THE WHOLE ARMY CHASIN' US, ALVAN!

YEAH!... BUT THEY AIN'T GOIN' TO CATCH US!



I'LL START A FIRE BEHIND US THAT'LL STOP THEM!



WOW!... LOOK LIEUTENANT!... THE FIRE'S BLOW-IN' RIGHT AT US!

YES, HUTCH!... WE'VE GOT TO RUN!



WAIT A MINUTE, MEN!... THE WIND'S SUDDENLY SHIFTED!... IT'S BLOWING THE OTHER WAY!



THOSE KIDNAPPERS ARE IN DANGER... I'M GOING AFTER THEM!

B.... BUT LIEUTENANT! YOU... YOU... CAN'T! IT'S DANGEROUS!



AH NUTS! LOOEYS AIN'T GOT BRAINS ANYWAY..... I'M GOIN' IN TOO!



HURRY JUPE! THEM FLAMES ARE COMIN' UP FAST!

I'M RUNNING (PUFF, PUFF)... AS FAST AS I CAN!



YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME ALONG, HUTCH!

THERE'S PLENTY OF ROOM ON MY CHEST FOR MEDALS, TOO, — LIEUTENANT!

HEY! THEY'RE CALLIN' FOR HELP!... OVER THERE!

HELP!



MEANWHILE, THE OTHER SOLDIER REPORTS TO HEADQUARTERS!

FOREST FIRE, SIR! (PUFF, PUFF) LIEUTENANT KORNELL AND PRIVATE HUTCH IN IT... CHASING A COUPLE OF KIDNAPPERS!

WHAT? I'LL SEND OUT AN ALARM AT ONCE!

THE SMOKE'S GOT 'EM! WE'LL DRAG THEM INTO A GULLY, HUTCH... THE FLAMES WON'T BE ABLE TO GET US THERE! (COUGH, COUGH)



FIRE FIGHTING TROOPS ARE IMMEDIATELY SENT OUT TO SQUELCH THE BLAZE!



PLANES ARE SENT ROARING OVER THE INFERNO TO LOCATE THE TRAPPED VICTIMS!



RIGHT. WE'LL BE ALRIGHT, UNLESS THE SMOKE GETS US, TOO! (COUGH, COUGH)



A PLANE.... IF I CAN ONLY ATTRACT IT'S ATTENTION!... IT'S NO USE, THEY CAN'T HEAR ME!



I'VE GOT AN IDEA... IT'S A CRAZY ONE BUT IT MIGHT WORK.... I'M GOING TO MAKE A KITE.... YOU'VE GOT SOME STRING IN YOUR PACK! GET IT!

HUH?



NOT BAD.... NOW, I'LL COVER IT UP WITH MY SHIRT....

YOU GOT SOMETHING HERE, LIEUTENANT! MY TIE WILL MAKE A GOOD TAIL



UP SHE GOES!

I'LL BE A MONKEY'S UNCLE...IT'S WORKING!



HEY, HARRY, LOOK! THERE'S A KITE!... THEY MUST BE FLYIN' IT! GET READY TO DROP THOSE ASBESTOS SUITS DOWN TO THEM!

BOY, THAT'S A CLEVER TRICK!



ASBESTOS SUITS, BALLASTED WITH SANDBAGS ARE PARACHUTED DOWNWARD!



C'MON, HUTCH! LET'S GET THESE SUITS ON THEM AND US, AND GET OUT OF HERE!

BOY! THEY DIDN'T COME A MINUTE TOO SOON!...



KEITH AND HUTCH, STAGGERING THROUGH THE SEARING FLAMES WITH THEIR BURDENS, FINALLY MANAGE TO BURST THROUGH TO SAFETY!

THEY'VE DONE IT! THEY'RE SAFE! GLORY BE!



LATER— IN THE CAMP COMMANDER'S HEADQUARTERS!

FINE WORK! LIEUTENANT KORNELL AND PRIVATE HUTCH!

IT WAS ALL IN THE LINE OF DUTY!



JUST THEN, THE CHILD'S PARENTS ENTER!

HOW CAN WE EVER THANK YOU!

PLEASE DON'T MENTION IT, MAM!



MOMMY! I'M GONNA KISS THESE NICE MANS!

HA HA!

EVERY ISSUE OF TOP NOTCH COMICS CONTAINS MORE THRILLING ADVENTURES OF KEITH KORNELL, THE WEST POINTER!

FIREFLY



ON A BEACH OUTSIDE A SMALL VILLAGE, THE FISHERMEN FIND THE DEAD DAUGHTER OF ONE OF THEIR FRIENDS! ... BUT NO ORDINARY DEATH WAS HER'S, FOR HER FACE IS HORRIBLY CLAWED AND MUTILATED - AS IF IT WERE TORN AND RIPPED BY THE CLAWS OF SOME HUGE, UNSPEAKABLE MONSTER!

'TIS THE WORK OF THE CAT-WOMAN! THAT THING WHICH DWELLS IN THE CASTLE OF THE SCIENTIST ON THE MOUNTAIN! WE SHALL AVENGE THIS GIRL'S DEATH AT ONCE!



THE FISHERMEN START UP THE PATH LEADING TO THE ANCIENT CASTLE!

FARTHER UP THE TRAIL A SOLITARY FIGURE PICKS HIS WAY... HARLEY HUDSON, BRILLIANT SCIENTIST, WHOM CRIMINALS KNOW ONLY AS THE FIREFLY!



SUDDENLY, OUT OF THE DEPTHS OF THE SURROUNDING GLOOM-A PAIR OF HUGE, CAT-LIKE EYES STARE EVILLY!



GONE! THE MINUTE I TURNED MY LIGHT IN ITS DIRECTION! WHAT SORT OF MONSTER IS IT, ANYWAY?



A BLOOD-CURDLING SHRIEK RINGS OUT THRU THE NIGHT!



AND A MAN'S BODY FALLS AT HARLEY'S FEET!



WHEW! THE POOR OLD BOY HAS BEEN CLAWED ALMOST TO SHREDS! I DON'T KNOW WHAT DID IT, BUT-



I THINK IT'S TIME THE FIREFLY DID SOME INVESTIGATING!



A FEW MOMENTS LATER, THE FIREFLY-WITH THE BODY OF THE DEAD MAN-CONFRONTS THE ADVANCING FISHERMEN!



SO YOU'RE THE MONSTER! YOU'RE THE CAT-THING THAT DWELLS IN THE CASTLE! WE'RE GOING TO KILL YOU AND EVERYONE IN THAT HOUSE OF HORROR!



THE FIREFLY, BRINGING HIS MIGHTY MUSCLES INTO PLAY, LEAPS UP THE SIDE OF THE CLIFF!



A SHORT WHILE LATER, HARLEY HUDSON KNOCKS AT THE DOOR OF THE CASTLE!



YOU MUST BE HARLEY HUDSON! COME IN! I'M DOCTOR WRIGHT AND THIS IS MY DAUGHTER!

I'M DR. WILEY! DR. WRIGHT'S ASSISTANT! COME IN!

THANKS!



I GOT THE NOTE ASKING ME TO COME HERE AND HELP WITH YOUR BIOLOGICAL TESTS, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE MORE IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW! THE FISHERMEN ARE ON THEIR WAY HERE TO KILL YOU ALL!



BEFORE YOU SAY ANYMORE- I'LL SEE MY DAUGHTER TO HER ROOM! SHE'S TOO FRAIL TO STAND ANY SUCH SHOCKS!



HUDSON, I THINK YOU OUGHT TO KNOW SOMETHING! THE CAT-THING THE VILLAGERS ARE TALKING ABOUT IS THAT GIRL YOU JUST MET!

WHAT!



DR. WRIGHT CALLS HER HIS DAUGHTER-BUT SHE'S NOT! SHE'S NOT HUMAN AT ALL! SHE'S THE RESULT OF A BIOLOGICAL EXPERIMENT! THAT GIRL IS REALLY A JUNGLE CAT IN HUMAN FORM! IF WE DON'T GIVE HER TO THE MOB-WE'LL ALL BE KILLED!



DO YOU EXPECT ME TO SWALLOW THAT, DR. WILEY?

NO! THEREFORE I AM GOING TO PROVE IT TO YOU! BE ON THE BALCONY OUTSIDE THE GIRL'S ROOM IN TEN MINUTES!



THIS TIME, THE FIREFLY IS HERE TO STAY- UNTIL THIS MYSTERY IS CLEARED UP!



TEN MINUTES LATER, THE FIREFLY APPEARS ON THE BALCONY OUTSIDE DR. WRIGHT'S DAUGHTER'S ROOM... AS THE GIRL ANSWERS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR...

A HAND SLIDES IN THE PARTIALLY OPENED DOOR—SNAPPING THE LIGHT SWITCH OFF!



IN THE SUDDEN DARK—NESS A PAIR OF GREEN EYES SHINE VICIOUSLY.. A MAN CRIES OUT IN TERROR. THEN —



AS THE FIREFLY SNAPS ON THE LIGHT...



MY FACE!... MY... OH! THE FIREFLY! YOU MUST HAVE SEEN IT!



WHEN I SNAPPED THE LIGHT OFF—DID YOU SEE HER EYES? LIKE THOSE OF A CAT! AND HER FINGERNAILS—LOOK AT THEM! I'M GOING TO MY ROOM TO PATCH UP MY FACE!



HM! THERE'S NO DOUBT OF IT! SHE CLAWED HIS FACE, THERE ARE PARTICLES OF SKIN IN HER FINGERNAILS!

ONCE AGAIN, THE ANGUISHED SCREAM OF A MAN IN TORTURE!



WHAT WAS THAT?

IT CAME FROM SOMEWHERE DOWN THIS HALL!



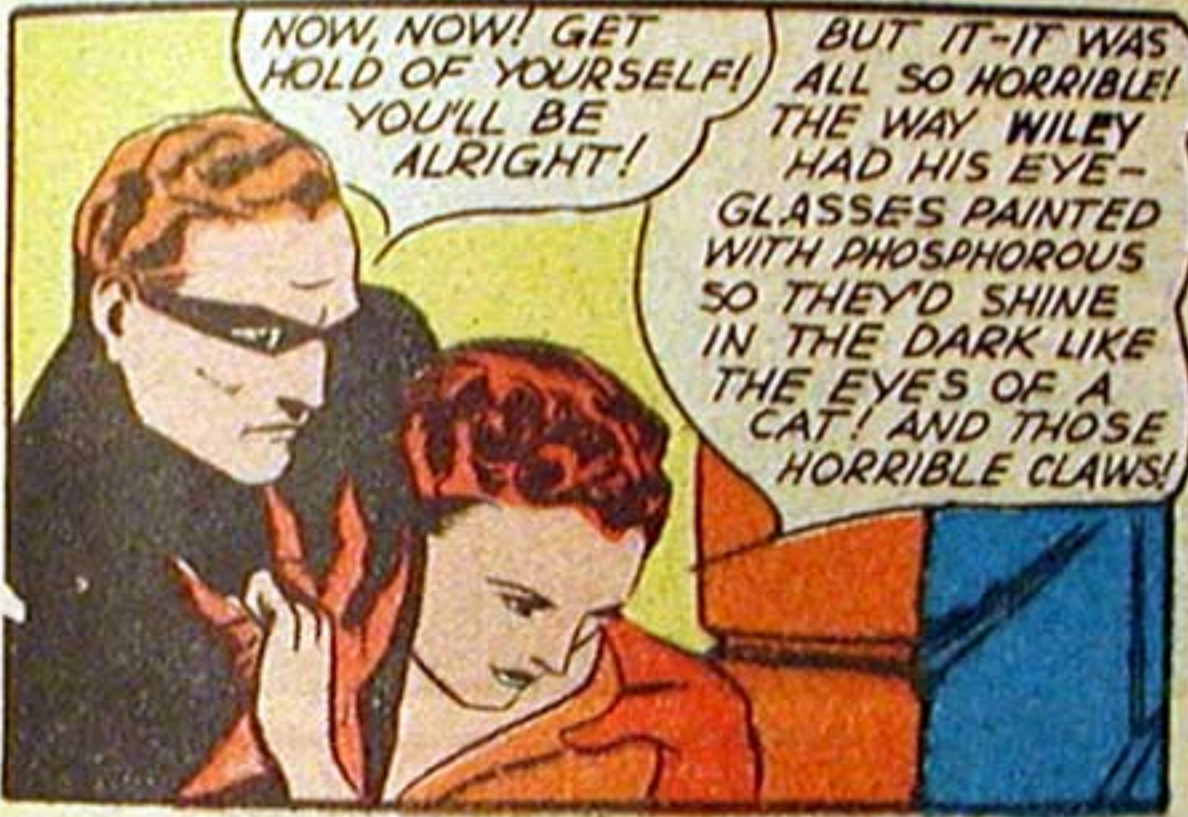
THE FIREFLY DASHES INTO DR. WRIGHT'S ROOM, TO FIND THE SCIENTIST ALMOST DEAD—AND WITH HIS FACE CLAWED TO BITS!







THE FIENDISH DR. WILEY FALLS TO HIS DEATH ON THE ROCKS BELOW—AS THE FISHERMEN ARRIVE AT THE CASTLE!



NOW, NOW! GET HOLD OF YOURSELF! YOU'LL BE ALRIGHT!

BUT IT-IT WAS ALL SO HORRIBLE! THE WAY WILEY HAD HIS EYE-GLASSES PAINTED WITH PHOSPHOROUS SO THEY'D SHINE IN THE DARK LIKE THE EYES OF A CAT! AND THOSE HORRIBLE CLAWS!



HE WANTED TO PUT DAD AND ME OUT OF THE WAY SO HE COULD TAKE CREDIT FOR ALL OF DAD'S EXPERIMENTS HIMSELF! THANKS TO YOU FIREFLY, HE DIDN'T QUITE SUCCEED!

MORE ADVENTURES OF THE FIREFLY IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF TOP NOTCH COMICS!



Wing Span, 46 in.
Length Overall, 26 1/2 in.
Fuselage Cross Section, 10 sq. in.
Wing Area, 254 sq. in.
Weight, 18 oz.

Win This Gas Model PLANE!

23 Prizes Just for NAMING IT

Come on, Kids—win this New Gas Model Airplane by sending us the best name for it. Oh, Boy! Here's your chance to try your skill at naming this speedy little number which has a specially built motor. The very first name you think of may be just the one to win this Airplane for you. So send a name right away.

You will get one of these sleek, fast-flying Model Airplanes if the name you send for it wins First, Second, Third, Fourth, or Fifth Prize. Sixth Prize will be \$10.00; Seventh Prize, \$5.00; Eighth Prize, \$3.00; and then there will be 15 more prizes of \$1.00 each. Duplicate prizes will be awarded in the event of a tie.

The First Name You Think of May Be a Winner

"Speed King" and "High Flier" have been suggested as possible names but you can think of a better one. Look at the picture (for the airplane is exactly like the picture), imagine that you are the proud owner of this model flier, then naming it will be easy. You'll be thrilled at this plane's powerful performance. Yes, Sir! It promises to be a favorite at the big air meets because this Class "A" type plane makes such beautiful flights when it is completed according to instructions. The "199" Megow Motor it has is built for long life and easy running because it comes with a permanently sealed-in crankcase and an extra long bronze bearing.

You can bet this motor really "sings" of power. The plane itself has a "Rite Pitch" propeller—a Flight Timer—and Rubber Wheels. Just place the motor in position! Crank her up! Let her go! And watch her zoom through the air! Any boy or girl, living in the 48 states, may send in a name. This offer closes March 31, 1941, so be prompt! Mail us only ONE airplane name on a penny postal card TODAY. Be sure to sign your full name and address on the card and address it to



Eye and Straps, 1/2 in.
S.P.M., 1,200 to 1,600
Displacement, 100
Propeller, 5 in. Dia.
4 in. Pitch
Static Thrust, 29 oz.
Weight, 3 oz.

MODEL AIRPLANE CLUB, 16 Capper Building, TOPEKA, KANSAS

THE ST. LOUIS KID

JIM JENNINGS, THE ST. LOUIS KID, IS BATTLING MIKE McCORMICK IN A RETURN BOUT! THE KID LOST THE LAST ONE BECAUSE HE WAS INJURED WHILE RESCUING PRETTY MARY MOLLOY FROM A PURSE-SNATCHER!

TOE TO TOE THE GLADIATORS STAND IN A BRUISING SLUG-FEST... THE CROWD GOES WILD AS IT SCENTS THE KILL!

C'MON, KID!

GIVE IT TO 'IM, MIKE!

THE KILL!

...AND THERE IT IS! A SLASHING RIGHT... AND McCORMICK GOES DOWN!

8-9-10!
AND OUT!

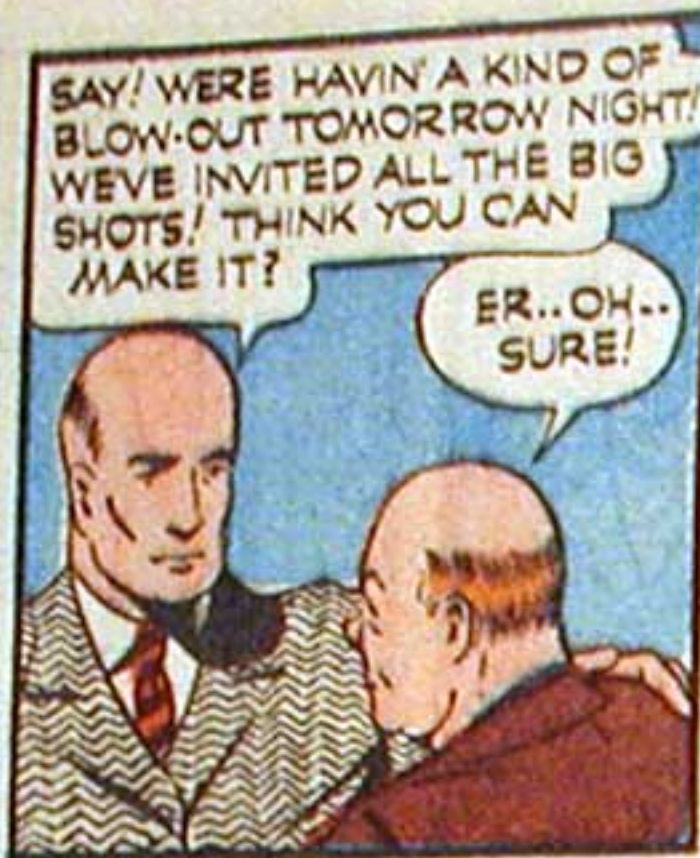
NEXT DAY... IN THE PROMOTER'S OFFICE!

JUST SIGN IT, KID!

A FIGHT WITH KING TERRY! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE GOOD ENOUGH FOR HIM!

YOU'LL TAKE 'IM KID!







I... I CAN'T DO THAT....! I DON'T KNOW HIM THAT WELL!

WHADDYA MEAN! WE SAW HIM COME IN AFTER YA IN MCGINTY'S SALOON!



LOOK! THIS PARTY WE THREW FOR YA COST US PLENTY O' DOUGH! DOUBLE-CROSS US AND THEY'LL BE PICKIN' LEAD OUTTA YOUR TEETH!

N..NO, DON'T I'LL DO IT!



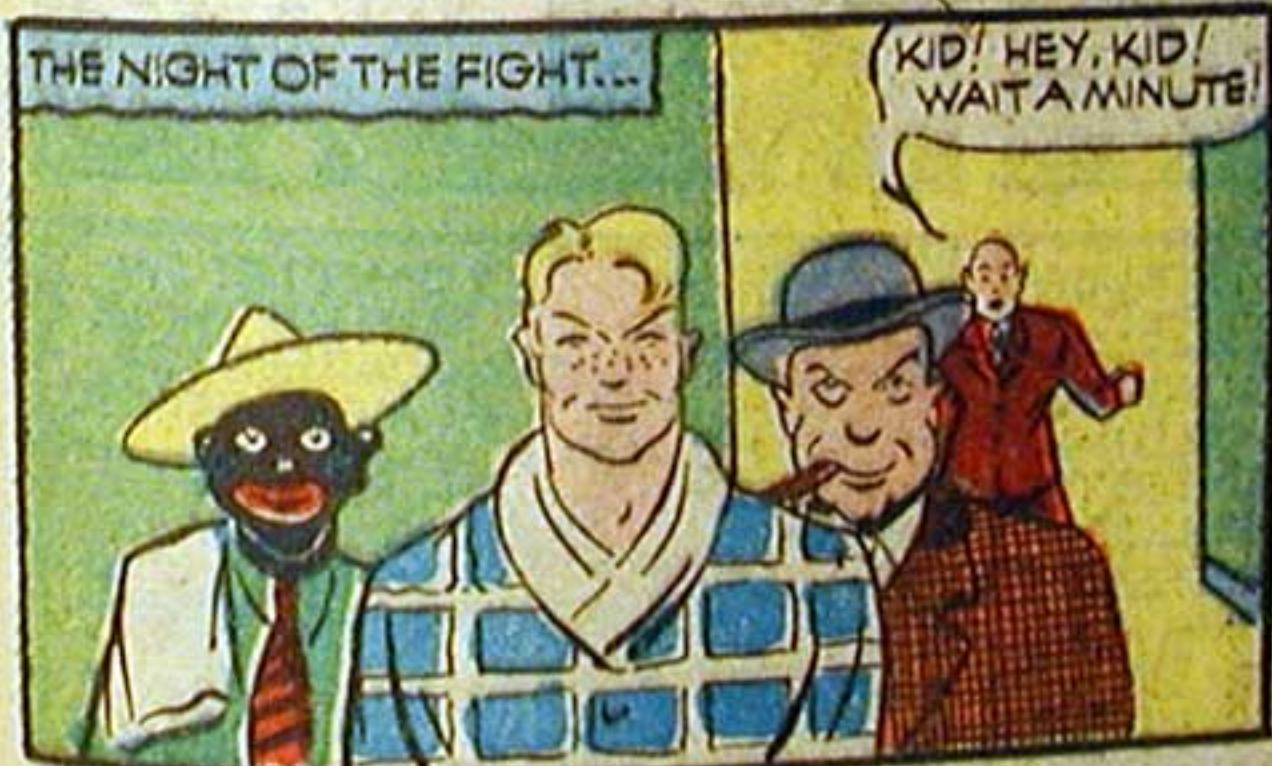
SO THE KID'S GOIN' TO THROW THE FIGHT! I STILL GOT A GRUDGE AGAINST HIM FOR JILTING ME FOR THAT MOLLOY DAME! ...I'M GONNA CALL THE BOXING COMMISSIONER AND TIP THEM OFF!



IN THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE!

MUST BE A GAG, JOHN!

WHAT! THE ST. LOUIS KID'S GONNA THROW THE FIGHT? WHO'S CALLING?... NUTS! SHE HUNG UP!



THE NIGHT OF THE FIGHT...

KID! HEY, KID! WAIT A MINUTE!



WHAT'S WRONG, MR. MOLLOY?

I GOTTA TALK TO YA, KID! ALONE! JUST FER A MINUTE!



WE'RE ALONE NOW! MARY! NOTHIN'S HAPPENED...

NO! SHE'S OKAY! SOMETHIN'LL HAPPEN TA ME IF YA WIN TONIGHT! THEY SPENT A LOT O' MONEY ON ME AND THEY'LL KILL ME IF I DON'T PERSUADE YA TO LOSE!



GEE.. AM I IN A SPOT! THERE IS ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO... I GOTTA SAVE HIM FOR MARY'S SAKE!





PLAY JOKES ON ME, WILL HE, LIKE I WAS A PUNCH-DRUNK STUMBLE-BUM!

OW!



I'M GONNA GIVE MR. MOLLOY A LESSON, EVEN IF HE IS MARY'S FATHER!

BONG!



THE WINNER BY A KNOCKOUT! THE ST. LOUIS KID!



LATER IN JIM'S LOCKER!...



OUTSIDE, MOLLOY! YOU'RE GETTIN' YOURS RIGHT NOW!



HOLY MACKEREL! IT WASN'T A GAG, AFTER ALL! MARY TOLD ME THAT SO'S I WOULD WIN!



YA DIRTY KILLER! PULL A GUN, WILL YA?

BANG!

HEY... OOF!



BANG! SOCK! BIFF!



OOF!

OW!



WHYNCHA LET ME GET ONE CRACK AT 'EM! I'D A MURDERED 'EM!

SURE, SURE! BUT YA BETTER KEEP YER NOSE CLEAN FROM NOW ON!

MORE FUN AND ACTION IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF TOP NOTCH COMICS

WINGS JOHNSON

Air Patrol

OF
THE

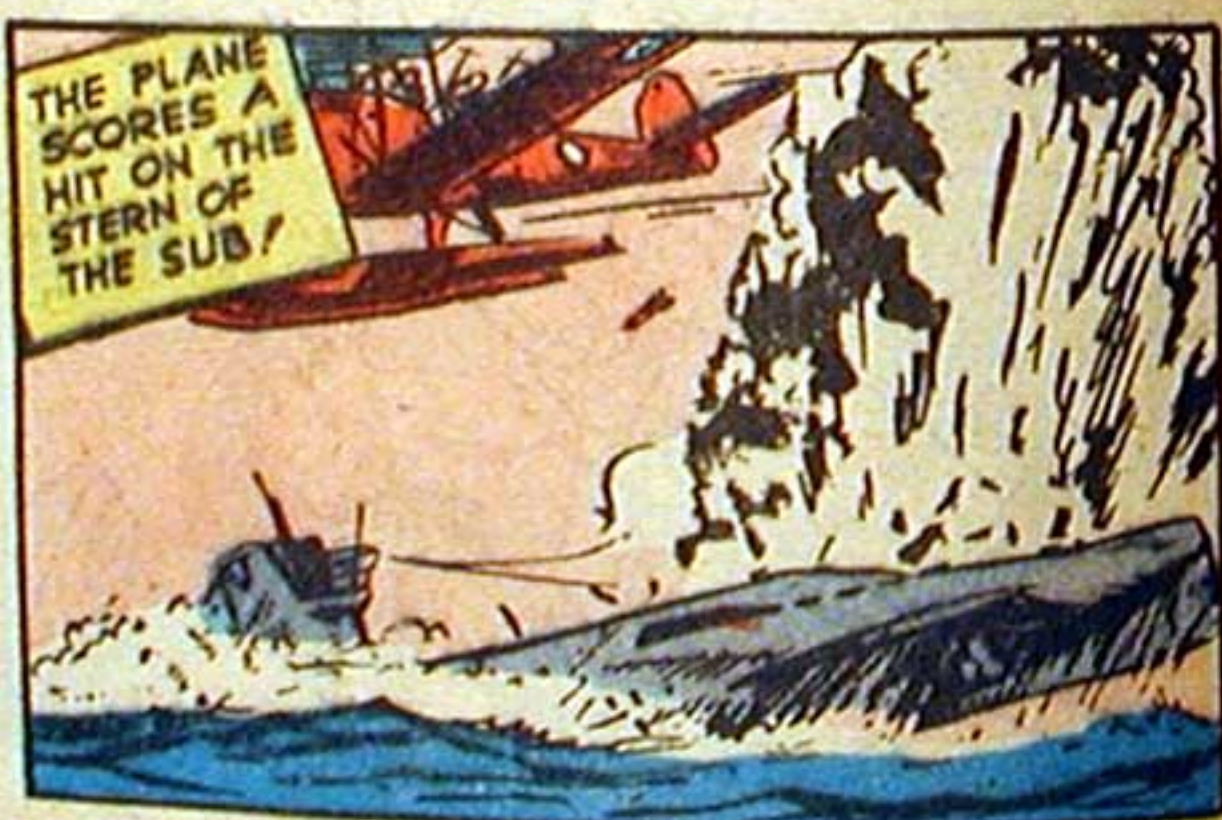
WINGS JOHNSON AND HIS PAL, HENRY HIGGINS, ARE PRISONERS ABOARD A GERMAN U-BOAT. HERE THEY MEET ANOTHER CAPTIVE - A YOUNG ENGLISH GIRL IN THE BRITISH SECRET SERVICE! BUT NOW - THE NAZI SUB IS SIGHTED BY A BRITISH PLANE AND A CRUISER!!



AUSLANDER! SUBMERGE, QUICK!



THE PLANE SCORES A HIT ON THE STERN OF THE SUB!



IN THE FORWARD COMPARTMENT OF THE U-BOAT!

LORD LOVE A DUCK! WE MUST 'AVE 'IT A WHALE!



TONS OF SEA WATER PRESS THROUGH THE JAGGED WOUND IN THE RUPTURED ARMOR-PLATE.



THE CREW SCRAMBLES OUT OF THE DOOMED STERN.



HURRY, MEN - SHUT THAT DOOR OR WE'LL ALL DIE!



CLOSE IT UP TIGHT!



WHAT'S HAPPENED, CAPTAIN?

WE'VE BEEN HIT BY A BOMB! WE'RE SINKING!



IF WE STAY IN HERE WE'RE DOOMED! LET ME TRY TO GET OUT THROUGH ONE OF THE TORPEDO TUBES! IF I REACH SURFACE, I CAN GET THE BRITISH TO EFFECT A RESCUE.

OKAY - WHAT HAVE I GOT TO LOSE?



H'IT'S SUICIDE, WINGSIE! TH' PRESSURE WILL BONK YOUR BLOOMIN' BODY TO A PULP!



WINGS CRAWLS INTO THE FORWARD TORPEDO TUBE!

OH! I CAN'T LOOK!

UNKNOWN TO WINGS AND THE OTHERS INSIDE THE SUB, THE NOSE OF THE U-BOAT HAS REARED ABOVE THE SURFACE OF THE WATER!



IF THOSE NAZIS WEREN'T YELLOW, ONE OF 'EM WOULD TRY COMING THRU THE TORPEDO TUBE!



JUST THEN WINGS POPS INTO VIEW!



LIFEBOAT 3 - EFFECT A RESCUE!



HEY! AREN'T YOU WINGS JOHNSON, THE FLYER?



MY BUDDY AND A BRITISH SECRET SERVICE GIRL ARE TRAPPED IN THERE! LET ME HAMMER A MESSAGE TO 'EM WITH YOUR GUN!



WINGS TAPS OUT A CODE MESSAGE ON THE SIDE OF THE SHIP!



HEY! THAT'S WINGS TAPPIN'! HE SAYS WE'RE H'ON THE SURFACE AND ALL WE 'AVE TO DO IS CRAWL OUT!



LATER, IN THE CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS ABOARD THE CRUISER...



YOU SAY YOU PICKED UP INFORMATION SUGGESTING A POSSIBLE INVASION OF BRITAIN?

YES, SIR! THAT'S WHAT IT AMOUNTS TO!



AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THERE IS AN UNPROTECTED INLET ON THE EAST COAST... THE NAZIS ARE PLANNING TO ENTER IT IN A FLEET OF SUBS, COME TO THE SURFACE, AND SEND TROOPS ASHORE IN INFLATED RUBBER BOATS!



IT MAY BE A FALSE ALARM! BUT WE'LL NOTIFY THE FLEET TO PATROL THOSE WATERS! THEY'RE ONLY A DAY OR SO AWAY!

I'M AFRAID THAT'S NO GOOD, SIR! THAT MOVE IS SCHEDULED FOR TONIGHT!

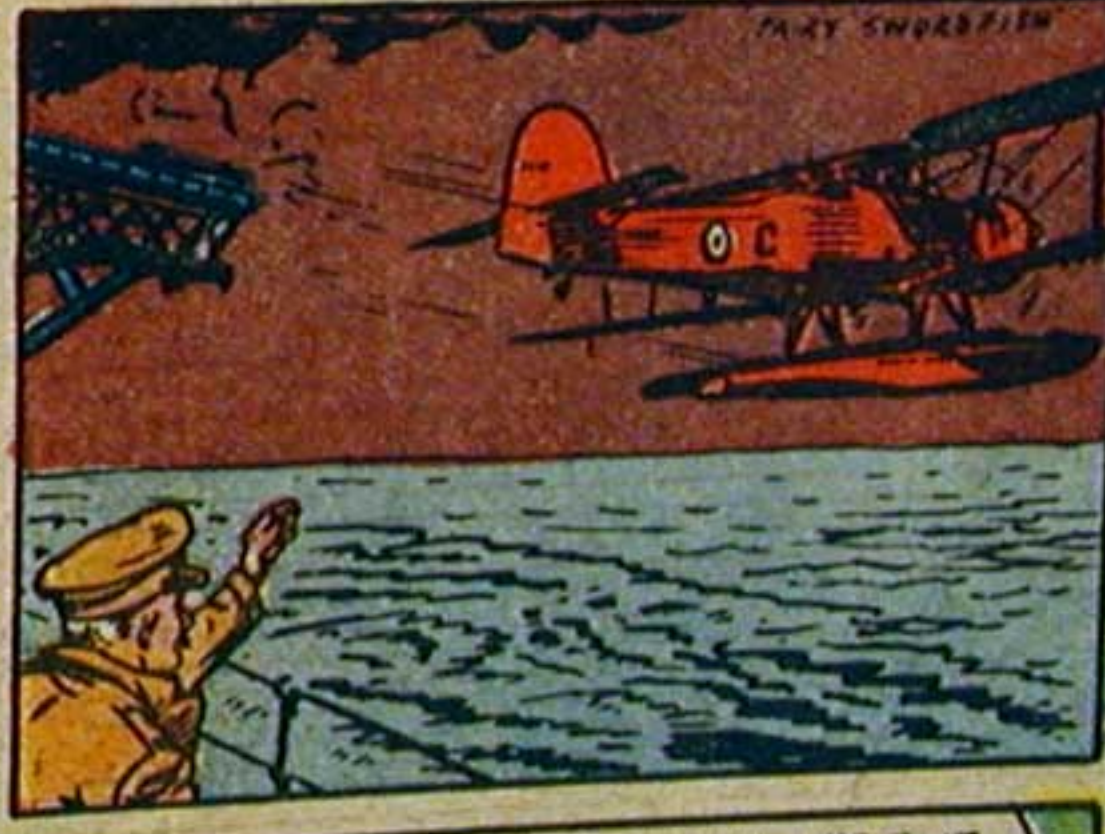


WHY NOT LET HENRY AND ME HOP OFF IN THE SCOUT PLANE AND LAND AT THE INLET! IF THERE'S AN ATTEMPT TO LAND, WE'LL NOTIFY YOU BY RADIO!

RIGHT! WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY THERE!



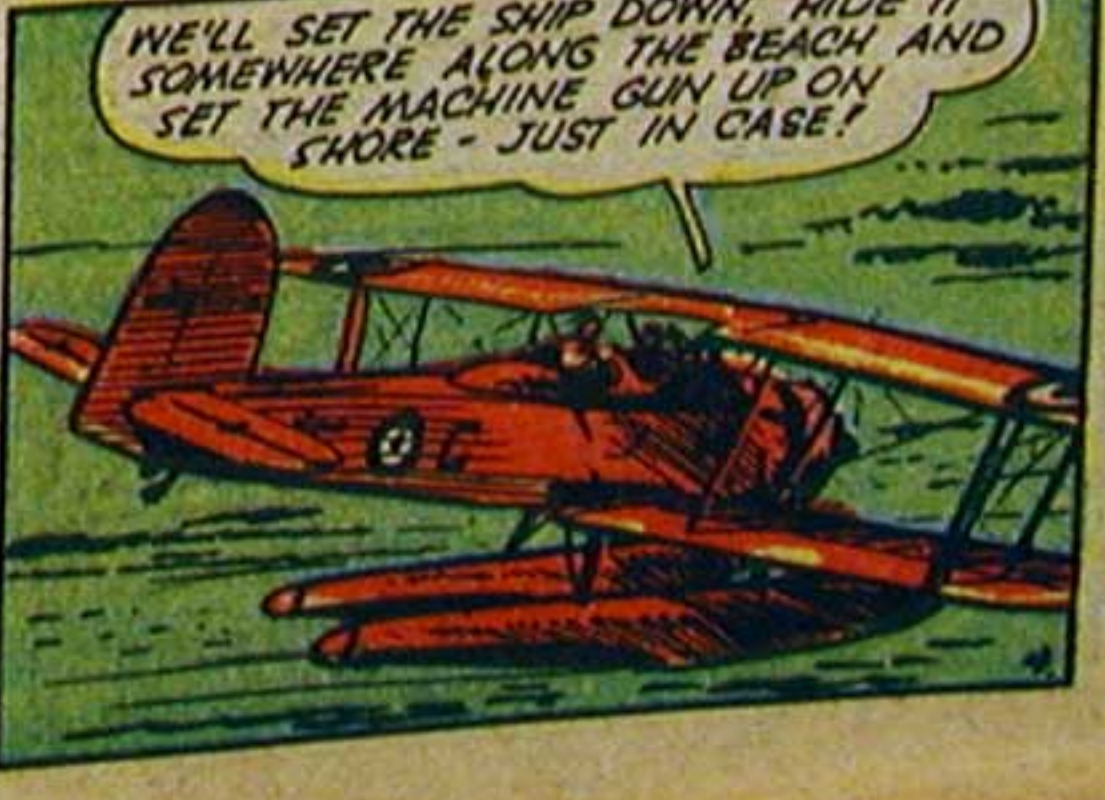
GOOD LUCK JOHNSON! YOU, TOO, HIGGINS!



PAUL SNODDEN



WINGS AND HENRY SOON ARRIVE AT THE INLET!



WE'LL SET THE SHIP DOWN, HIDE IT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE BEACH AND SET THE MACHINE GUN UP ON SHORE - JUST IN CASE!



WINGS SKITTERS HIS SHIP ALONG THE WATER PICKING OFF THE MEMBERS OF THE U-BOAT'S LANDING PARTIES AND THE SUBMARINE GUN CREWS...



JOHNSON HALTS HIS SHIP AND BLOCKS THE ENTRANCE TO THE INLET, THE GERMANS ARE TRAPPED BETWEEN HIS GUNS AND HENRY'S ON THE BEACH!



JOHNSON CALLING CRUISER "BEETLE" CALLING CRUISER "BEETLE" HOLDING NAZI INVASION TROOPS AT INLET! HURRY! WE NEED HELP!...



JOHNSON IS CALLING, SIR? HE AND HIGGINS ARE HOLDING THE INVADERS AT BAY - BUT THEY NEED HELP QUICKLY!



FULL SPEED AHEAD!

THE CRUISER, AND ESCORTING PLANES SOON ARRIVE AT THE SCENE, EASILY CAPTURING THE INVADERS!



WELL DONE, JOHNSON! THANK YOU, SIR!



WELL DONE, EH? HMM? REMINDS ME OF TH' WAY H' I LIKES ME AMPSHIRE ROAST BEEF!

LATER... AND FOR DEFEATING AN ALMOST SUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO INVADE BRITAIN HIS MAJESTY BESTOWS UPON YOU THE VICTORIA CROSS!



THE AIR PATROL, WITH WINGS JOHNSON, APPEARS IN EVERY ISSUE OF TOP NOTCH COMICS!

BOB PHANTOM

SCOURGE OF THE UNDERWORLD

HELP!

UGH!

TOO BAD, BUB!
I TOLD YA NOT TO
MAKE A MOVE!



A MAN AND A GIRL ENTER A SMART JEWELRY SHOP ON UPPER BROADWAY. A FEW MOMENTS LATER, THE GIRL TUCKS A SMALL FORTUNE IN GEMS INTO HER BAG AND AS A SALESMAN MAKES AN EFFORT TO STOP THE PAIR...

NOBODY OUTSIDE THE STORE HEARD THE SHOT ON ACCOUNT OF THOSE PNEUMATIC DRILLS IN THE STREET! BUT WE BETTER SPLIT UP AND GET OUTTA THIS SECTION!

SURE! TRY TO LOSE YOURSELF IN THE CROWD!..... THE GUYS IN THE SHOP ARE GONNA YELL BLOODY MURDER ANY SECOND!



WALT WHITNEY, BROADWAY COLUMNIST, STROLLS UP THE STREET.

SAY! THAT COUPLE THAT JUST CAME OUT OF THE JEWELRY SHOP ARE STARTING TO RUN! LOOKS LIKE—



YOU GO THAT WAY! I'LL GET ACROSS THE STREET!



A PUFF OF SMOKE - AND BOB PHANTOM SUDDENLY APPEARS!





NATCH IT, LADY! THAT THERE'S FRESH CEMENT!

OH, SHUT UP! I'M LATE FOR A DATE!



THE GIRL BANDIT STUMBLES AGAINST THE SIDE OF A CONCRETE MIXER...



AS BOB PHANTOM ACCOSTS HER COMPANION!

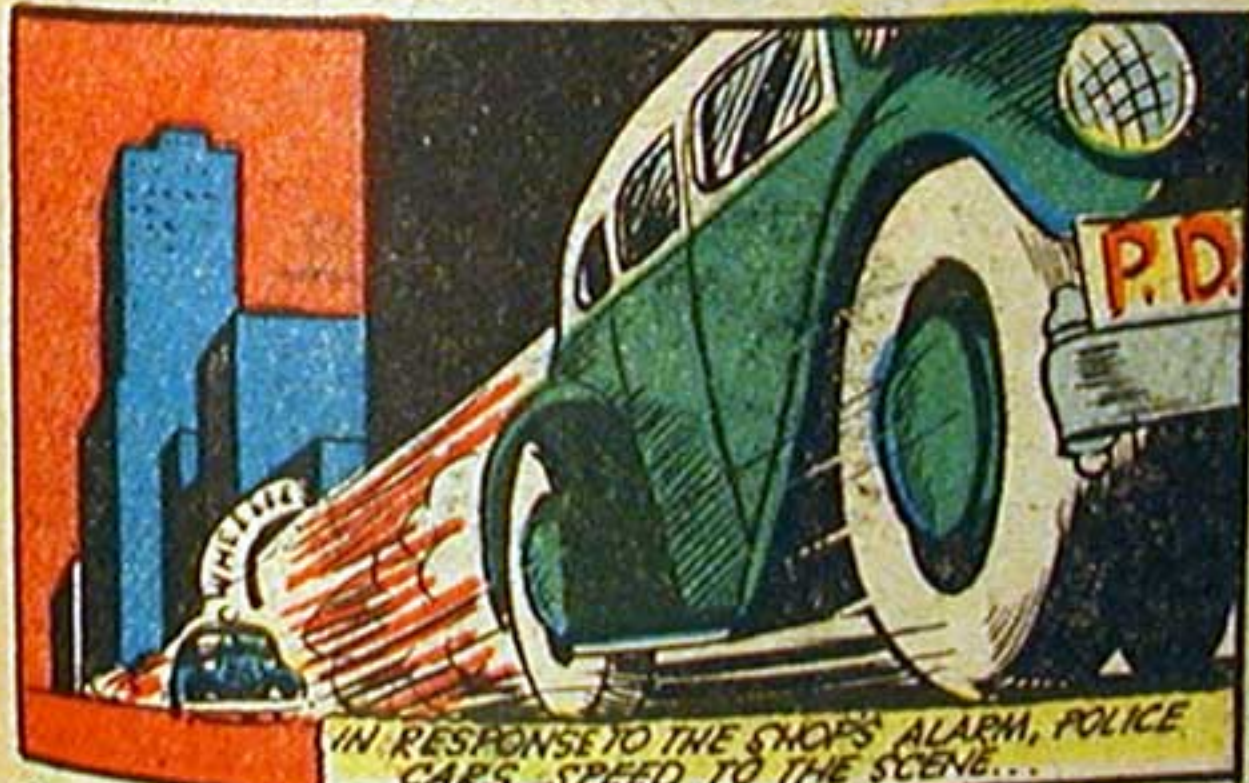
HEY, YOU!

SORRY BUDDY! I GUESS I MADE A MISTAKE, YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ILLEGAL ON YOU AFTER ALL!

THAT'S WHAT I BEEN TRYIN' TO TELL YOU! NOW GET YOUR PAWS OFF ME BEFORE I CALL A COP!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...



IN RESPONSE TO THE SHOP'S ALARM, POLICE CARS SPEED TO THE SCENE...

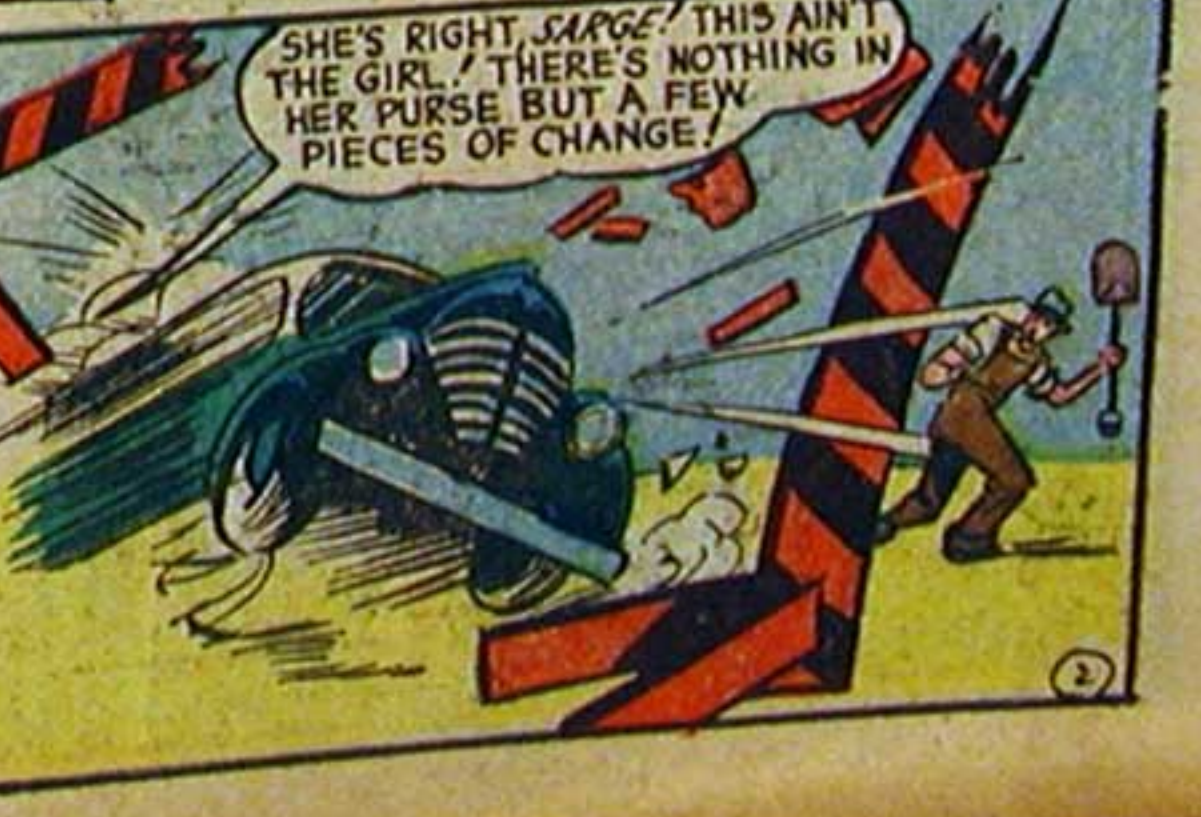


CRASHING AND SLIDING, THEY TEAR TO A STOP IN THE NEWLY-PAVED STREET... DISGORGING A CORDON OF POLICE WHO FAN OUT THROUGH THE DISTRICT IN SEARCH OF THE GIRL.



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT HOLDUP SISTER?

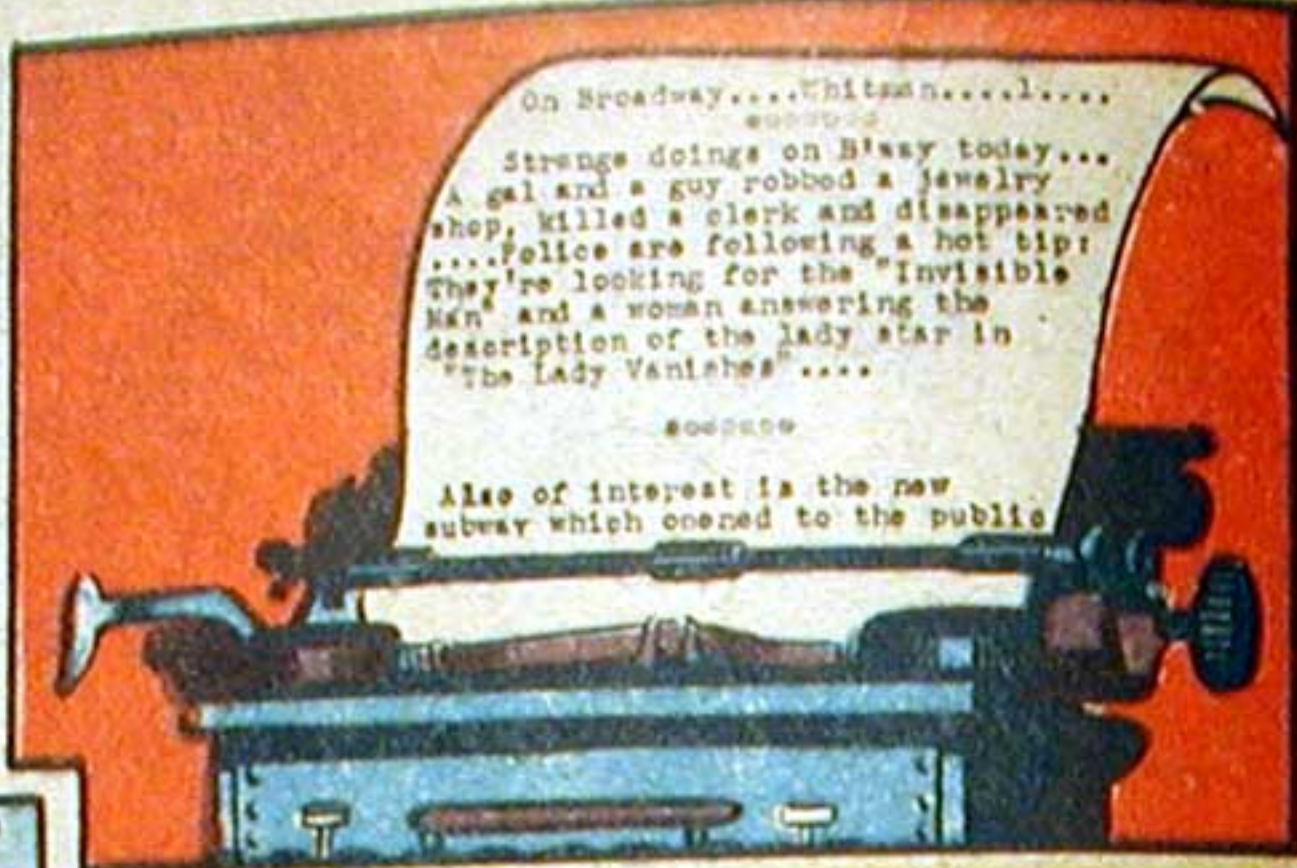
LET ME GO! I'M JUST AN INNOCENT BYSTANDER!



SHE'S RIGHT, SARGE! THIS AIN'T THE GIRL! THERE'S NOTHING IN HER PURSE BUT A FEW PIECES OF CHANGE!



THAT NIGHT, WALT WHITNEY TYPES UP HIS COLUMN.



On Broadway...Whitman...l...
Strange doings on B'way today...
A gal and a guy robbed a jewelry
shop, killed a clerk and disappeared
....Police are following a hot tip:
They're looking for the "Invisible
Man" and a woman answering the
description of the lady star in
"The Lady Vanishes"....

Also of interest is the new
subway which opened to the public



THE MORE I THINK ABOUT THAT
BUSINESS, THE SMELLIER
IT GETS! I'M GOING
TO TAKE A STROLL
UP THERE
AGAIN!



IN A PENTHOUSE SEVERAL BLOCKS SOUTH OF THE SCENE
OF THE ROBBERY!

FOR THE LAST TIME, INEZ!
WHERE ARE THE
ROCKS? YOU
HAD 'EM

AND FOR THE LAST TIME,
I'M TELLIN'
YOU I THREW
'EM AWAY!



OKAY, CHISELER! I GAVE YOU
ALL THE TIME YOU'RE GONNA
GET! HERE'S THE ONLY WAY
TO HANDLE DOUBLE
CROSSERS!



NOT SO
FAST YOU
BIG
GORILLA!



I'VE HAD THIS FIGURED OUT FOR A LONG TIME!
THERE'S A CLOCK ON THE LEDGE OUTSIDE THE
WINDOW. WHEN I HANG THIS GUY ON
THE HAND, IT'LL LOOK LIKE
HE'S READY TO COMMIT
SUICIDE! AND THE COPS
CAN'T GET TO HIM
EXCEPT THROUGH THE
STEEL DOORS OF THIS
PENTHOUSE! THAT'LL
TAKE THEM LONG
ENOUGH TO LET ME
GO THROUGH WITH
THE REST OF
MY PLAN!



THE GUN GIRL HANGS HER FORMER PARTNER TO
THE HAND OF THE BIG CLOCK ON THE LEDGE, HIGH
ABOVE BROADWAY!



THAT GUY'S GONNA JUMP!

IT'S A SUICIDE

CALL THE COPS!

WELL! MAYBE THAT'S WHY MY NOSE FOR NEWS BROUGHT ME BACK HERE!

HALT WHITNEY JOINS THE CROWD OF PEOPLE ON THE SIDEWALK BENEATH THE CLOCK!



CAN'T YOU COPS GET UP THERE AND STOP HIM?

THE BOYS ARE TRYIN' MISTER!



UP THE STREET A FEW BLOCKS, INEZ BRINGS A CREW OF MEN TO THE STREET THAT HAS JUST BEEN PAVED.

PUT THOSE SIGNS UP FAST!

OKAY!

MEN AT WORK

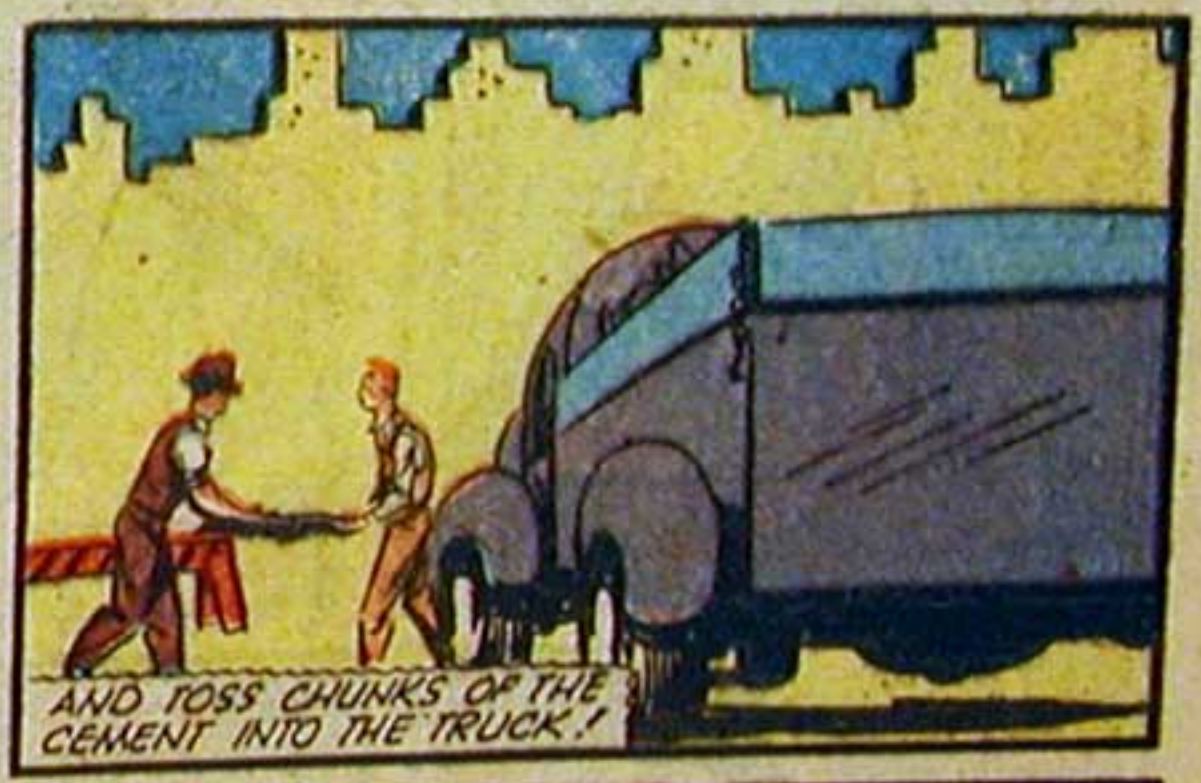


GET THOSE SAW HORSES OVER THERE AND BLOCK THE ROAD!

IT SOUNDS CRAZY TO ME, BUT FOR FIFTY BUCKS-WHO AM I TO OBJECT?



THE WORKMEN RIP UP THE CONCRETE WITH AUTOMATIC DRILLS.



AND TOSS CHUNKS OF THE CEMENT INTO THE TRUCK!



HURRY UP! THAT MAN ON THE LEDGE DOWN THE STREET IS GOING TO FALL OFF ANY MINUTE! THAT'S WHAT'S KEEPING THE COPS THERE! AS SOON AS HE FALLS, THE BULLS WILL BE HERE!... AND WE'VE GOT TO BE GONE!



THE MINUTE HAND SWINGS AROUND TO THE QUARTER-PAST POSITION AS THE MAN'S COAT SLIPS OFF A FEW INCHES.

TWO MINUTES LATER THE BODY OF THE MAN SLIPS COMPLETELY OFF THE MINUTE HAND AND HURTLES DOWNWARD!



GET BACK, EVERYBODY! HE'S FINALLY JUMPED OFF! BACK! GET BACK!



A SWIRL OF WIND, A PUFF OF SMOKE AND HALF-WAY UP THE BUILDING, BOB PHANTOM!



I HOPE I HAVEN'T MISJUDGED THE CURVE OF HIS FALL!

OOPS! ALMOST LET HIM SLIP BY!



THIS IS THE GUY WHO CAME OUT OF THE JEWELRY SHOP TODAY! BUT HE'LL NEVER DO IT AGAIN - HE'S DEAD! STABBED!



I'LL DUCK IN THIS WINDOW AND LEAVE HIM FOR THE COPS!



THINGS ARE BEGINNING TO LOOK A LITTLE CLEARER NOW! I THINK I KNOW THE ANSWER TO A LOT OF THINGS!



MEANWHILE...

THIS IS THE LAST HUNK OF CEMENT IN THIS SECTION OF TH' ROAD!



GOOD! PUT IT IN THE TRUCK AND LET'S GO!

THE TRUCK ROARS OFF DOWN THE STREET!





BOB PHANTOM!

STEP ON THE GAS AND RUN HIM DOWN!



I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO GIVE YOU A BUM STEER, MAC!



THE SPEEDING TRUCK CRASHES INTO A FIRE HYDRANT.



BOY! WHAT A CRACK-UP!

HELLO, BOYS!



WHITNEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



I JUST HAPPENED TO BE GOING BY! LOOK WHAT FELL OUT OF THE TRUCK, A PIECE OF CONCRETE FROM THE STREET! IT WAS JUST PUT DOWN TODAY AND IT'S STILL CRUMBLY. LOOK!



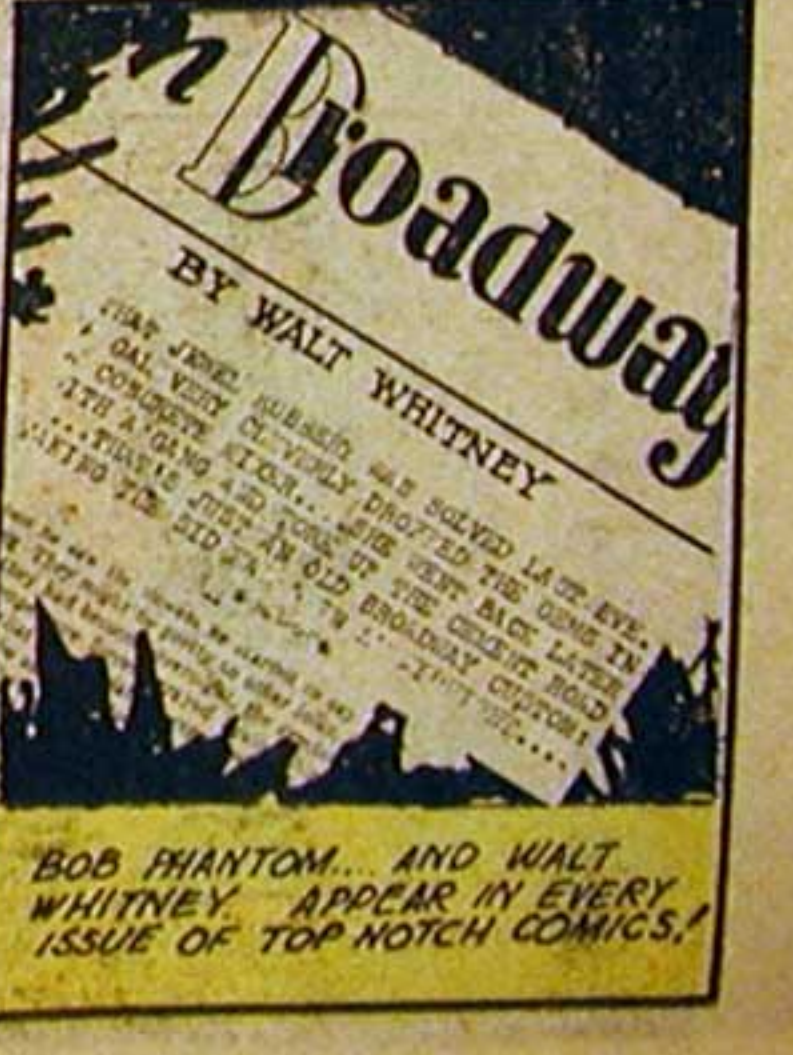
AS WHITNEY CRUSHES THE SMALL PIECE OF CEMENT IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND - TWO SMALL DIAMONDS ARE REVEALED...



HELLO, CHIEF! HOW'S IT FEEL TO MAKE LITTLE ONES OUT OF BIG ONES!

BEAT IT, WHITNEY!

LATER, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS!



Broadway
BY WALT WHITNEY

... THAT JEWEL ... SOLVED LAST-EYE ...
... GAVE VERY ... DROPPED THE BOMB IN ...
... CONCRETE ... THE BEST ...
... THAT IS ... THE ...
... THAT ...

BOB PHANTOM... AND WALT WHITNEY... APPEAR IN EVERY ISSUE OF TOP NOTCH COMICS!



BREASTING THE TAPE

CHOC SPORTSMAN, coach of the Rideout twins, Wayne and Blain, is very aptly named, being both a gentleman and a sportsman. . . . If Glen Cunningham ever requires the services of a chiropractor, he couldn't hire a better man than Gene Venzke. Gene has seen Glenn's back so often, he knows every little twist in Glenn's vertebrae, from the third lumbar, down to the sacro-iliac. . . . Chuck Fenske, U. of Wisconsin's star miler, has been showing better form every time he goes to the starting post. If Fenske and Venzke should happen to finish one, two, in a race, the announcer might lose his job because of complaints from the fans that he was trying to double talk 'em. . . . People who have watched experienced pole vaulters in action often marvel at the fact that they are never hurt. They'd be shocked clean out of their

senses if they knew the number of times pole vaulting tyros wound up with broken legs, because they didn't know how to land. . . . Wonder why the boys can't seem to high jump 6 feet, 8 inches any more? During the past year, the nearest approach to that mark was 6 feet, 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. A good suggestion for the boys methinks, would be for them to carry rubber checks when they jump, so they'll bounce higher. . . . Jimmy Herbert, dusky 600 yard flash, is now one of Uncle Sam's boys. He's a post office clerk. . . . A foreign track star with a sense of humor offered the following excuse for his dismal showing in his debut on American soil — "I was very tired before I started. I had a dream the night before in which I moved heavy safes around—for ten hours."

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACTS OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AND MARCH 3, 1933

Of Top Notch Comics, published monthly at St. Louis, Mo., for October 1st, 1940.

State of New York
County of New York

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Louis H. Silberkleit, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the publisher of the Top Notch Comics and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher, Louis H. Silberkleit, 160 West Broadway, N. Y., N. Y.; Editor, Abner J. Sundell, 160 West Broadway, N. Y., N. Y.; Managing Editor, Abner J. Sundell, 160 West Broadway, N. Y., N. Y.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.)

M. L. J. Magazines, Inc., 160 West Broadway, N. Y., N. Y.; Louis H. Silberkleit, 160 West Broadway, N. Y., N. Y.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the twelve months preceding the date shown above is— (This information is required from daily publications only.)

LOUIS H. SILBERKLEIT
(Signature of Publisher)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1st day of October, 1940. Maurice Coyne (My commission expires March 30, 1942). Notary Public, Bronx Co. No. 164, Reg. No. 10-C-42; Cert. filed in N. Y. Co. No. 162, Reg. No. 2-C-143; Cert. filed in Kings Co. No. 146, Reg. No. 2113
(SEAL)

**2 leady STORIES
in each MAGAZINE**

THE BLACK HOOD
THE WIZARD
 WITH ROY THE SUPER-BOY

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 ON SALE ABOUT THE 10TH OF EVERY MONTH *comics*

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WITH *Recky*
 THE AMAZING BOY

MR. JUSTICE

BLUE RIBBON

COMICS

ON SALE ABOUT THE 30TH OF EVERY MONTH

ALSO RINGING THE BELL ARE THESE FAVORITES..... SERGEANT BOYLE, BENTLEY OF SCOTLAND YARD, THE COMET, KAYO WARD, THE FIREFLY, BOB PHANTOM, THE FOX, TY-GOR, THE GREEN FALCON, CAPTAIN VALOR, ZAMBINI, CORPORAL COLLINS, AND OTHERS.

KARDAK

THE MYSTIC MAGICIAN

ONE DAY AS KARDAK AND BALTHAR STROLL THROUGH THE SLUMS...

PASTA FAZOOLE!
ASTRINGO SOL!
COM-A-BACK WEETH
THAT-A APPLE!

YAAAAA!

APPLES
6 FOR
10

WAIT-UM UP
YOUNG FELLOW!

LEGGO ME! YA BIG
GOON!

NOT GOOD FOR
YOUNG BOY TO STEAL-UM
APPLE!

AH, BUSHWA!
IN YOUR EYE!

TOUGH KID, EH! MAYBE A
LITTLE CASTOR OIL WILL
SOFTEN YOU UP!....

COME ON NOW!
OPEN UP!

N...N...YAH!
LEGGO! SIS!
HEY, SIS!
HAALP!



LET GO OF MY BROTHER, YOU BULLY!

I'LL POKE YA RIGHT IN DE KISSER!



WHY DON'T YOU TEACH YOUR BROTHER NOT TO STEAL... AND SOME MANNERS!
HOW CAN THEY BE TAUGHT THE RIGHT THINGS IN THESE MISERABLE SLUMS?



NO DECENT HOME TO RAISE THEM! NO PLACE TO PLAY!... THE CITY FINALLY DECIDES TO BUILD PLAYGROUNDS, BUT THAT GRAFTING POLITICIAN, ALDERMAN HOKUM, PREVENTS IT!

HMMM! I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN!



HERE HE COMES NOW, OUT OF THE POLITICAL CLUB! PROBABLY PEDDLING FOR SOME VOTES!

GET OFFA THIS CAR, YA BRATS!



ALDERMAN! JUST A MOMENT!



I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, ARE BLOCKING THE PLAYGROUND BILL!

SO WHAT! THESE SLUMMERS DON'T DESERVE BETTER! THEY'RE JUST SWINE!



AS HOKUM STEPS INTO HIS CAR, IT SUDDENLY TURNS INTO A PIG STY!

HEY!...WHAT!...

YOU WERE SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT PIGS, ALDERMAN?



THEN THE CHAUFFEUR TURNS, AND...

OINK!
OINK!

WELL, I GUESS WE'D BETTER GO... THE ALDERMAN IS TOO IMPORTANT TO TALK TO US!

HEY!... COME BACK! MY CAR... MY CHAUFFEUR... I'LL JAIL YOU FOR THIS!

YOU'RE RIGHT, ALDERMAN! I FORGOT WHO YOU WERE! THERE'S YOUR CAR BACK... AND PRESTO! A CARPET FOR YOU TO WALK ON!

THAT'S BETTER!

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU PULL THESE TRICKS... BUT A CARPET!... WELL... THAT'S MORE MY STYLE!

SUDDENLY THE CARPET DISAPPEARS AND THE ALDERMAN STEPS INTO AN OPEN MANHOLE!

HAW, HAW! WOTTA GAG! LOOKA HIM! HE'S A RIOT!

WHA... HAALP!

ME FETCH 'UM UP!

I'M A MESS! ALL COVERED WITH GARBAGE! AND ME WITH AN IMPORTANT COUNCIL MEETING TO GO TO!

SO SORRY ALDERMAN! I'LL FIX THAT! PRESTO! AND A BRAND NEW SUIT OF CLOTHES!

ALDERMAN HOKUM SPEEDS TOWARD CITY HALL..



HARRUMPH!... I SHOWED THAT MAGICIAN FAKER HE COULDN'T FRIGHTEN ME! PASS THE PLAYGROUND BILL!... THAT'S A LAUGH!... SAY! THIS ISN'T A BAD LOOKING OUTFIT!... WONDER HOW HE DID IT?



AS THE ALDERMAN WALKS INTO THE COUNCIL ROOM,...

GREAT SCOT!

GOOD AFTERNOON, GENTLEMEN!

GUARD! THROW THIS HOODLUM OUT!



I'M ALDERMAN HOKUM, I TELL YOU! LET GO OF ME!

SURE!... AND I'M CLEOPATRA!

WISE GUY, HUH!



HA! HA! LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY ELSE DOESN'T APPRECIATE HOKUM'S IMPORTANCE!

AN' STAY OUT!

HALP!

YOWEE!



IT'S THAT MAGICIAN'S WORK!... DRAT HIM!

TSK, TSK! ALL TIME BALTHAR PICK YOU UP!



NOW, MAYBE YOU'LL PASS THAT BILL!

YES, YES! ONLY NO MORE TRICKS!



ALRIGHT! THERE ARE YOUR OWN CLOTHES BACK!... AND DON'T WORRY! THEY'RE REAL! THE OTHERS WERE JUST AN ILLUSION!

SUFFERIN' CATNIP!



HOKUM RETURNS TO THE COUNCIL HALL...

HELLO, ALDERMAN! WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

WHAT A DAY!



WHAT'S THE FIRST BUSINESS ON THE FLOOR?

THIS PLAYGROUND BILL... IT ONLY NEEDS YOUR SIGNATURE!



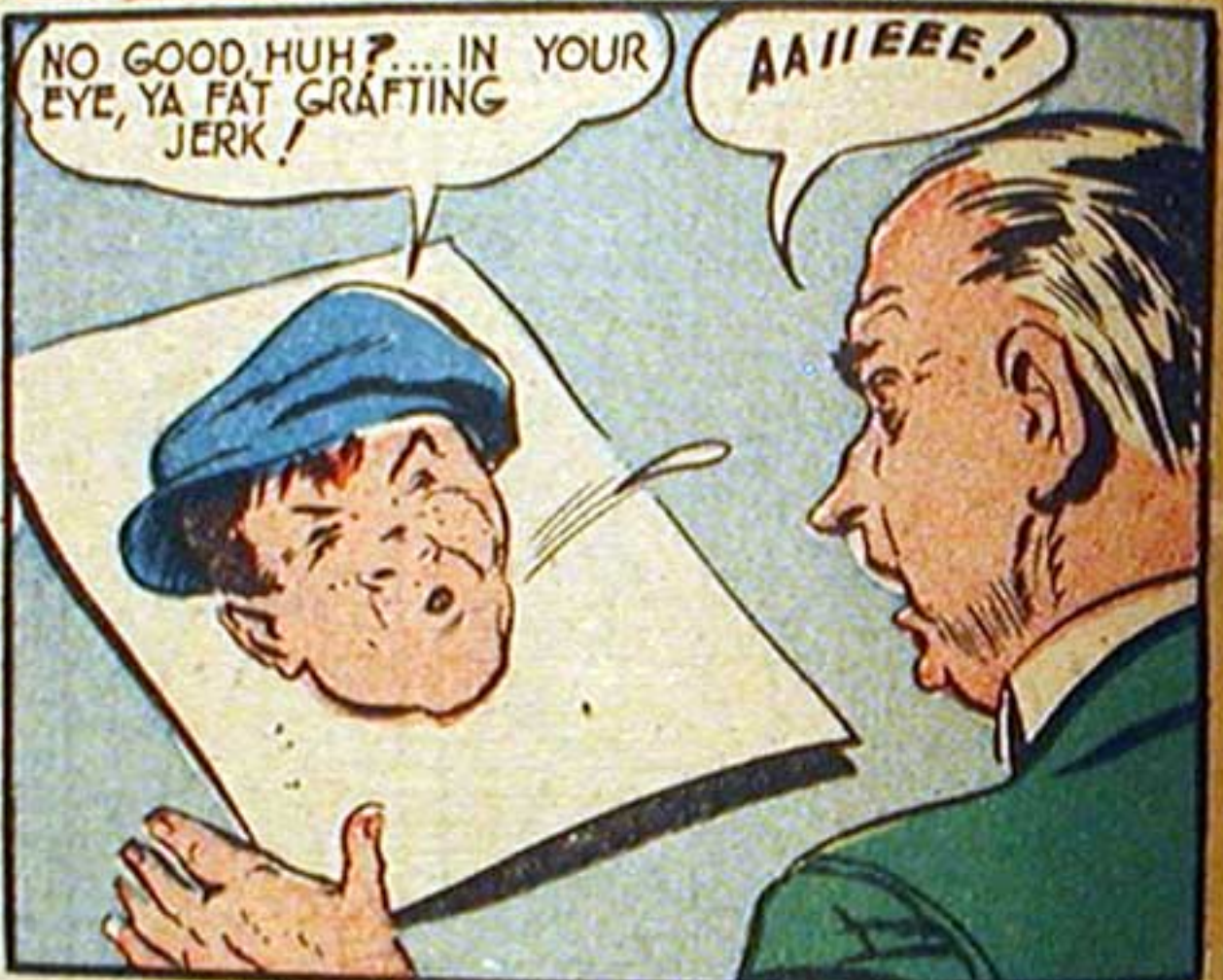
WE ALL THINK IT'S A GOOD THING, HOKUM! WHY DON'T YOU LET IT PASS!

HMMMM... WELL, LET ME HAVE IT!



THAT MAGICIAN'S NOT AROUND!... I COULD VETO IT AND HE WOULDN'T KNOW!.....

THIS BILL IS NO GOOD!



NO GOOD, HUH?... IN YOUR EYE, YA FAT GRAFTING JERK!

AAIEEE!



HE'S DRIVING ME NUTS!... I'LL SIGN!... I'LL SIGN!... GET ME A PADDED CELL!



IN THE SPECTATORS' GALLERY.....

SHAKE, PAL! YA DID IT!

I HOPE YOU HAVE AS MUCH FUN ON YOUR NEW PLAYGROUND, BILLY!

There are no playgrounds in the city of this city.....

And, when a man is a real man, he will sign a bill to create playgrounds for the children of the city. And, when a man is a real man, he will sign a bill to create playgrounds for the children of the city. And, when a man is a real man, he will sign a bill to create playgrounds for the children of the city.

PASSED

And, when a man is a real man, he will sign a bill to create playgrounds for the children of the city.

Signed
Alderman Hokum
Chairman of the Council

KARDAK, THE MYSTIC MAGICIAN
WILL BE BACK AGAIN, FIGHTING EVIL WITH MAGIC IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF **TOP NOTCH COMICS!**



C'mon - PICK YOUR PRIZE

BOYS GIRLS
MEN WOMEN

THESE PRIZES ARE GIVEN TO YOU—Just send for 28 packets of easy selling Garden Spot Seeds which you can easily and quickly sell to your friends and neighbors at 10c each. Return the \$2.80 collected and select your Prize in accordance to our offers. **SEND NO MONEY—WE TRUST YOU.**

22 Piece TABLEWARE SET



6 Knives, 6 Forks, 6 Teaspoons, Butter Knife, Sugar Shell. **GIVEN** for selling only one order.

Good Luck FISHING OUTFIT ²⁸ PIECES



Steel rod, reel, casting line, 12 snelled hooks, 12 lead sinker, cork float and stringer. **Sell only one order.**

Household CLOCK

Can be used anywhere. Richly finished in two tone effect. 30 hour movement. **Dispose of only 1 order and Clock is yours. WRITE TODAY.**



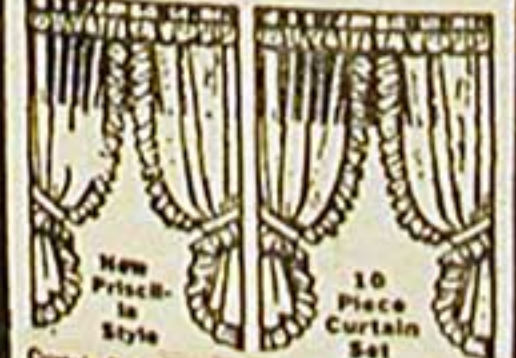
Real Live CANARY



What a pet! You will love it. Canary and Cage both given for selling only two orders. **WRITE TODAY.**

Sent Express Collect.

10 Piece Priscilla Curtain Set



Curtain set in refined white pattern, finished with 2 1/4 inch ruffles in colors. Each curtain is 20x30 inches. 2 pairs, 4 Curtains, 4 Tie-backs & 2 Ruffled Valances, 10 pieces in all. **GIVEN** to you as one premium for distributing only one order. Postpaid.

32 Piece Rose Petal DINNER SET GIVEN



GIVEN for selling 2 orders. Sent express collect.

JUNIOR GUITAR GIVEN

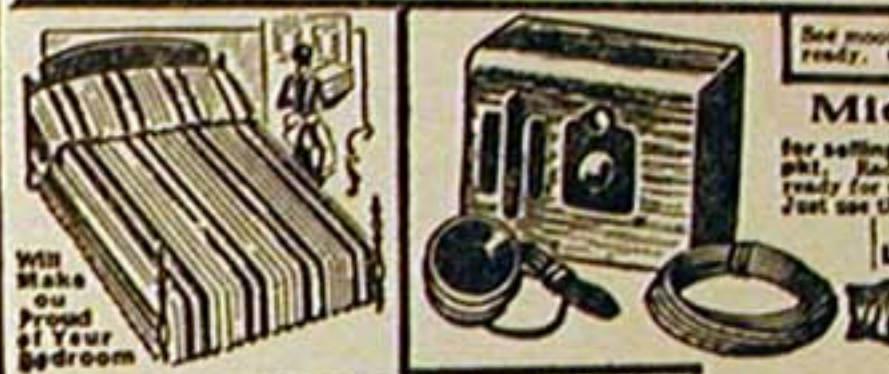


Get this hand-some instrument **NOW.** Here's How Just send your name and address (**SEND NO MONEY**). **WE TRUST YOU** with 28 pkts. of Garden Spot Seeds to sell at 10c a pkt. When sold send \$2.80 collected and **WE WILL SEND** this mahogany finished guitar and Five Minute Instruction Book absolutely **FREE.** Send for seeds **NOW.**

Ladies' New Fashion WRIST WATCH GIVEN



More Than a Guaranteed Timekeeper. Sparkling enamel-cased ivory case. Guaranteed Movement. Yours for disposing of only two orders of Garden Spot Seeds. **MAIL COUPON TODAY.**



Crinkled BED SPREAD

The crinkled stripes are neatly woven in contrasting shades. Size 80x90 inches. A beauty. **Simply dispose of 1 order.**

BASKETBALL GIVEN



Latest Rubber Valve Type. **Send No Money.** Just name and address. Given for disposing of only 28 pkts. of Garden Spot Seeds at 10c a pkt. **WRITE FOR SEEDS TODAY. Hurry! Be First.**

SEND NO MONEY Just MAIL COUPON

Blue Bird Granite Cooking Set GIVEN



Will Make You Proud of Your Kitchen. Convenient and sanitary kitchen utensils. Entire Set, given as one Premium, consists of four regular-sized pieces: 1 Mixing Bowl, 1 Pad-dized Pan, 1 Preserving Kettle, with handle, 1 Sauce Pan. Given for selling only 28 pkts. of Garden Spot Seeds at 10c a pkt. Write for seeds **TODAY.** **Send No Money. We Trust You. Hurry! Be First.**

VIOLIN, BOW & INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN



Handsome finish, highly polished. Set of strings and bow included. **Send no money. MAIL THE COUPON TODAY. BE FIRST.**

Home BARBER Outfit GIVEN



Here is a money-saver, you can trim children's or adult's hair yourself without sending them to the barber. Consists of one pair of guaranteed Hair Clippers same as barber uses for the latest style cuts: one pair Diamond Point Barber Shears & 1-inch Barber Comb. **GIVEN** for selling 2 orders.

PRIZE TYPEWRITER GIVEN



\$10 for best and neatest letter written on this machine by July 1 1941. **Simply dispose of only one order of Garden Spot Seeds at 10c a pkt. and Typewriter is yours.**

GIANT SPY-GLASS



See moon, stars and people miles away. Gives new pleasure. Always ready. **Good for selling only one order. Send for seeds today.**

Midget Pocket RADIO GIVEN

for selling only two 28 packet orders of Garden Spot Seeds at 10c a pkt. Radio needs no batteries or electrical connections. Is complete and ready for use anywhere. **SEND NO MONEY. WE TRUST YOU. Hurry! Just see this Coupon. Do not wait; do it NOW**

Write for Seeds to: Lancaster County Seed Co., Sta. 393 Paradise, Pa.

MAIL COUPON TODAY for

5 FREE PROMPTNESS PRIZES!

SENT RIGHT ALONG WITH YOUR REGULAR PREMIUM IF WE GET THIS COUPON IN THE NEXT 5 DAYS. SO HURRY! **FILL OUT TODAY AND MAIL.**

PICTURE FRAME

WARRANTY WRIST WATCH

G-MEN BADGE

PICTURE FRAME

MAIL COUPON TODAY

SEND NO MONEY WE TRUST YOU

Our 34th Year

Lancaster County Seed Co., Station 393 Paradise, Pa.

Please send me 28 packets (one order) of Garden Spot Seeds to sell at 10c a pkt. for a free gift. I will sell and pay for seeds in 30 days. Also send right along with my Regular Premium the 5 FREE PROMPTNESS PRIZES SHOWN ABOVE.

Name _____
 Post Office _____
 State _____
 Street or R. F. D. _____ Box _____
 Print your last name plainly below

Save 2 cents by filling in, posting and mailing this Coupon on a 1c Post Card TODAY



**THIS
BEAUTIFUL
DESK** FOR ONLY **\$1.00**

WITH ANY

REMINGTON PORTABLE TYPEWRITER

A beautiful desk in a neutral blue-green—trimmed in black and silver—made of sturdy fibre board—now available for only one dollar (\$1.00) to purchasers of a Remington Deluxe Noiseless Portable Typewriter. The desk is so light that it can be moved anywhere without trouble. It will hold six hundred (600) pounds. This combination gives you a miniature office at home. Mail the coupon today.

**THESE EXTRAS FOR YOU
LEARN TYPING FREE**

To help you even further, you get Free with this special offer a 24-page booklet, prepared by experts, to teach you quickly how to typewrite by the touch method. When you buy a Noiseless you get this free Remington Rand gift that increases the pleasure of using your Remington Deluxe Noiseless Portable. Remember, the touch typing book is sent Free while this offer holds.

SPECIAL CARRYING CASE

The Remington Deluxe Noiseless Portable is light in weight, easily carried about. With this offer Remington supplies a beautiful carrying case sturdily built of 3-ply wood bound with a special Dupont Fabric.

SPECIFICATIONS

ALL ESSENTIAL FEATURES of large standard office machines appear in the Noiseless Deluxe Portable—standard 4-row keyboard; back spacer; margin stops and margin release; double shift key; two color ribbon and automatic reverse; variable line spacer; paper fingers; makes as many as seven carbons; takes paper 9.5" wide; writes lines 8.2" wide, black key cards and white letters, rubber cushioned feet.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

The Remington Noiseless Deluxe Portable Typewriter is sold on a trial basis with a money-back guarantee. If, after ten days trial, you are not entirely satisfied, we will take it back, paying all shipping charges and refunding your good will deposit at once. You take no risk.



ACT NOW!

ON THIS BARGAIN
OFFER.

**THE
COMBINATION
FOR AS LITTLE AS 10c A DAY**

How easy it is to pay for this combination. Just imagine! A small good will deposit and terms as low as 10c a day to get this combination at once. You will never miss 10c a day. Become immediately the possessor of this combination. You assume no obligation by sending the coupon.



SEND COUPON

NOW!

Remington Rand Inc. Dept. 419-4
465 Washington St., Buffalo, N. Y.

Tell me, without obligation, how to get a Free Trial of a new Remington Noiseless Deluxe Portable, including Carrying Case and Free Typing Booklet, for as little as 10c a day. Send Catalogue.

Name.....

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